

JPRS 84643

28 October 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2757



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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VENEZUELA OFFERS CRUDE TO HELP TRINIDAD-TOBAGO REFINERIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Sep 83 p 1

{Text}

TRINIDAD and Tobago can get all its crude from Venezuela to keep the country's two refineries viable, Cabinet Minister Jose Porras Omana said yesterday.

Mr Porras, who is Minister of Development in Caracas, said his government was awaiting proposals from Trinidad and Tobago on how Venezuela could help with providing crude for the Trintoc and Texaco refineries.

"Venezuela is in a position to give technical help and crude to keep the petroleum industry moving," he said.

Mr Porras was in Port-of-Spain to open an exhibition on Wednesday night mounted by 25 Venezuelan manufacturers which runs up to tomorrow at the Holiday Inn.

He arrived in Trinidad on Wednesday morning and had a working luncheon with Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Basil Ince, Minister of State Enterprises Ronald Williams, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Patrick Manning and Minister of Industry and Commerce Desmond Cartey.

The Minister said his visit is to pave way for closer ties and was the beginning of exchange visits for trade.

Next week a top official from the Ministry of Trade will be in Trinidad to discuss possible removal of trade barriers with Minister Cartey. There is a possibility that clothing, shoes and manufactured goods made in Trinidad will get in the

Venezuelan market, he said.

The official will also look at steel and rum imports from this country.

Venezuela, too, the Minister said, will want to sell us goods that are imported outside the region.

"Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago are experiencing similar economic problems and it will be beneficial for the two countries to come together to iron out differences in the oil industry and trade.

"Trinidad and Tobago is a stable country in the region and we hope that co-operation between the two countries will spread to others in the region," he said.

A technical aid co-operation package mooted by Venezuela is to start soon with personnel drawn from State-owned Trintoc getting the know how from PEDVSA, the Venezuela State oil company.

On crude supplies to keep the Texaco refinery viable, Minister Porras said his government was awaiting a request from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

IDB PREPARED TO FINANCE CARIBBEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Tues.,
(Cana):

THE Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is to spend more money on Caribbean projects relating to wind as a source of energy, according to an IDB report released here.

The report on the development of new and renewable energy sources in the Caribbean and Latin America did not say exactly how much money the Washington-based financial institution had committed itself to lending.

But according to the report the projected spending was part of an overall plan including technical support to help the region meet its energy needs.

In the Caribbean area, the IDB approved in 1982 a \$3 million technical co-operation grant to collect and analyse wind data, purchase, install and operate a pilot wind turbine of about 200 kilowatts rated capacity and monitor and eval-

uate the performance of the pilot plant to determine the potential of generating electricity from wind turbines (wind farms).

The report said the bank plans to get involved in similar projects in Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Costa Rica.

The bank was said to be reviewing a feasibility study of the use of wood waste as fuel in a thermal power plant in Guyana.

"This plant would produce low-cost electricity to supply power to Guyana Timber Limited, a company engaged in sawmilling and forestry operation, and the excess power would be fed to the national grid", the report said.

"In addition to providing a convenient source of low-cost, such a plant would eliminate the need for costly disposal or burning of wood waste and would produce ash that can be used as fertiliser".

In regard to direct uses of solar energy, the IDB is considering a proposal to study the possibility of generating electricity by using solar and technology in Jamaica.

The bank is considering a short-term technical co-operation project for the Institute of Applied Science and Technology of Guyana.

The project would provide an expert to conduct a preliminary study on the possibility of utilising abundant biomass for the production of charcoal in Guyana in a continuous process.

In the area of incineration of urban wastes for the generation of electric power and environment control, the IDB has been asked to implement a project in Jamaica.

In 1981, the IDB financed a pre-feasibility study on waste heat recovery from the exhaust of two glass-producing furnaces owned and operated by the Guyana glass works.

NEW ELECTRICITY PLANT OPENED, USES 3 DIESEL GENERATORS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Excerpts]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling yesterday officially opened the \$52 million Bahamas Electricity Corporation plant, which will generate electricity at a lower cost and eventually mean cheaper rates for consumers.

The new plant is made up of three diesel generators with a combined capacity of 30,000 kW, a 132,000 volt transmission line and a gas turbine converted to utilize its exhaust steam to generate 50% more electricity.

At inauguration ceremonies beginning at Clifton Pier, site of the diesel generators, Sir Lynden told guests that electricity would be produced by the new machines at a lower cost and ultimately the savings will be passed on to consumers.

Representatives from companies that helped in the project were present, some from as far away as Tokyo, Japan. Also present were US Ambassador to the Bahamas Dr Lev Dobriansky; British High Commissioner Peter Heap;

Chairman of the BEC Corporation Milo B Butler Jr; Minister of Works and Utilities A Loftus Roker and BEC's General Manager Peter I Bethel.

Mr Bethel welcomed guests and familiarised them with contributors to the project, some of whom are: Ewbank Engineering Consultants Ltd, Ireland; Sulzer Brothers Ltd, Switzerland (contractors) and for the Blue Hills power station, site of the combined cycle unit: Power Systems Engineering Inc, Texas (consultants); Mitsubishi Corp, Japan (main suppliers); Harrison International Corp, South Carolina (main mechanical contractor) and ER Hanna Construction Co Ltd, Nassau, (civil contractor).

Pauwels International, Belgium, were the main suppliers in the construction of the transmission line. The 132,000 volt line connecting the two power stations is the first in the country to handle such a voltage level.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY WITH CANADA FOR OIL ASSISTANCE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados is into negotiations with Canada for a Can\$4 million line of credit for oilfield supplies and equipment to help expand domestic crude oil production, Energy Minister Senator Clyde Griffith has announced.

Senator Griffith told a National Energy Seminar last Wednesday that the Canadian line of credit, if approved, would complement a million US\$00 loan from the Venezuelan Investment Fund for use by the state-owned Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) in its expansion.

Canada, through its state corporation Petro-Canada International, has played a pivotal role in the development of the one-year-old BNOC by providing manpower, technical assistance, and training. The agreement under which this assistance is provided expires in December.

BNOC, which operates the main Woodbourne oilfield in southeastern Barbados, made a Bds\$2.6 million profit during its first nine months in operation. Senator Griffith said this would have been impossible without the Canadian assistance.

Crude oil production here between January and June was up 60 per cent to 167 280 barrels against 104 154 barrels for the corresponding six-

month period in 1982, official figures showed.

Under the 20-year Venezuelan loan, BNOC will purchase equipment, supplies and services from Venezuela on a line-of-credit basis. The loan carries a two per cent interest rate.

The Barbados Energy Minister said together with an increase in crude oil output will come additional supplies of natural gas.

Senator Griffith, said the state-run National

Petroleum Corporation (NPC) will negotiate with the industrial sector pricing packages to make the use of natural gas more attractive than imported fuel.

The NPC will also announce details of plans to expand natural gas distribution to households, including a budget plan to amortize the cost of connection to encourage more homes to use the fuel, the minister said — CANA).

GOVERNMENT PLANS INCENTIVES TO PUSH USE OF NATURAL GAS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Sep 83 p 28

[Text]

GOVERNMENT will soon be offering a package of incentives to the industrial sector to make natural gas a more attractive alternative to diesel.

This was announced by Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, when he addressed a one-day energy conservation seminar at the Dover Conference Centre on Wednesday.

The seminar was sponsored by the Energy Conservation Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Mr. Griffith said that in a further effort aimed at reducing oil imports, the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) had been directed to negotiate with the industrial sector, pricing packages designed to make natural gas an attractive alternative.

In addition, he said, plans were already on the drawing

board for the expansion of natural gas to domestic consumers.

The chairman of the NPC, Mr. Aaron Truss, would be announcing the details of a plan for natural gas distribution including a budget payment plan to amortise the cost of connection, so potential users would not be deterred by the capital cost of introducing the system, Mr. Griffith said.

Government, he said, had made monumental strides in its determination to reach self-sufficiency and within the space of one year, had increased oil production dramatically, improved the skills of locals, and reduced the import bill.

The energy minister also disclosed that Government was negotiating a \$6 million loan from the Canadian International Development Agency for oil field supplies and equipment for the petroleum sector.

FRENCH HELP WITH RESEARCH ON SOLAR WATER HEATERS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados is receiving assistance from France for research into the development of a less expensive and effective model of solar water heaters.

News of this has come from Energy and Natural Resource Minister Senator Clyde Griffith who said yesterday it was another effort to encourage more conversions from electric and gas heaters.

Senator Griffith was addressing a seminar at the Dover Convention Centre. He told participants that the solar water heating industry was a success story and although there was still a great deal to be done domestically, the industry had developed an export potential.

He pointed out that the fiscal incentive offered by Government in 1974 had gone a long way towards encouraging the development of the sector but the time had come to

take stock of efficacy of the incentive in its present form.

The Minister said: "As it stands, provision for deduction of 100 per cent of installation costs gives greater benefits to those in the higher income bracket."

There is no great fiscal incentive, therefore, for people, say, in the 30 per cent or 20 per cent bracket to opt for installation," he noted.

Senator Griffith remarked that because of the income tax reform measures brought about since 1976, it was therefore necessary to reassess the fiscal incentives for installation so that it becomes more attractive and equitable.

He recalled it was his determination to discourage the use of electric and gas heaters.

"The consumers must be made aware of the major disadvantages of purchasing these heaters; the hidden costs and especially the danger of gas heaters," he said.

BRIEFS

SPECULATION ON MOBIL--Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, on Tuesday scoffed at a report from Opposition Leader Mr Errol Barrow, that there were rumours in London that the Government was trying to sell off the assets of Mobil Explorations Limited. A statement signed by Mr Barrow read: "Leader of the Opposition, Errol Barrow, has expressed concern over strong rumours in the city of London that the Government is entering into a deal with a British-based organisation to sell off the assets of Mobil Explorations Limited which it acquired last year at an unrealistically high price." Mr Barrow also called for an urgent public enquiry into all the circumstances surrounding the purchase, operations and rumoured proposed sale. Senator Griffith said: "As a responsible minister of Government, I cannot comment on speculation. Mobil Explorations Limited has no assets in Barbados. "Mr Barrow is chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and whenever he wants to, he can start investigations. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Sep 83 p 11]

CSO: 3298/035

BRIEFS

NEW POWER STATION--In order to provide for the increasing demand for electricity the BVI Electricity Corporation is to build a new power station, it was announced by the Electricity Corporation during the week. Extensive studies have been carried out to select a suitable site for the power station. In all twenty five sites on Tortola and one on Virgin Gorda were considered with specialist advice being obtained on environmental effects of the power station when put into operation. It would appear that the site best satisfying environmental engineering and economic requirements is Fish Bay and the Corporation has selected this site for further study. The study will be carried out by the Corporation's consulting engineers, Kennedy & Donkin of the United Kingdom who will in addition to all other factors take into account the social effects of building a new power station. Further action will depend upon the outcome of the study which is expected to be completed at the end of the year. The new power station is essential to supply the demand which is rising every year and to replace three generators at Long Bush which are nearing the end of their useful lives. The Corporation would be pleased to receive written communications from persons who can offer useful comments and advice on this matter and in particular its choice of Fish Bay as a site for a new power station. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 10 Sep 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/061

BRIEFS

PROJECT LOAN FROM SPAIN--Yesterday the Senate approved the contract loan of more than 27 million dollars, underwritten by the governments of Spain and the Dominican Republic, for the construction of the Los Toros I and II hydroelectric plants which will produce 68 million KWH, with a net saving on oil purchases of 3.68 million dollars per year. The purpose of the Los Toros hydroelectric project is to produce energy in an uninterrupted fashion (base generation) through the use of the two 56- and 26-meter waterfalls on the outskirts of Los Toros and Las Hormigas in the Azua province. The project basically entails obtaining 17.0M3/Sec from the existing Yaque del Sur Azua channel and transporting it through a 2.3-kilometer-long open channel and pressure tubing, to the engine room of the first fall where there is a group made up of 2 turbines of 3,360 KW each in operation. On existing this first fall, the waters will be transported once again to the engine room of the second fall where a group made up of 2 turbines of 1,760 KW each is in operation, the two plants totalling an installed power of 10,240 KW. The Los Toros project is using the investments made by the Dominican state in the Sabana Yegua, Sabaneta, Derivadora de Villapando dams, and the Sur-Azua channel, as a response to the necessity for multiple uses for the precious water resource. According to a summary prepared by the Senate, during the building phase this important work will directly generate approximately 1,000 jobs, which will cause a revitalization of the economy of the southern region. [Excerpts] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 14A] 9730

CSO: 3248/1

BRIEFS

GENERATING STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION--Coincident with the 162nd anniversary of the country's independence, work was begun on the CEL [Central Electric Generator] in this city. This constitutes one more measure, development and economic reactivation which the government is bringing forward and in which CEL is participating in a direct way. CEL has as its objective the assurance of a supply of electric energy in emergency cases to this city and to the rest of the towns in the eastern area. Spokesmen of CEL affirm that the construction of this generator will contribute decisively to the economic reactivation of the area. The high cost of the energy produced is due to the fact that it operates on petroleum derivatives (diesel). According to spokesmen of CEL, it should be mentioned that they are in a position to provide energy at a low cost and in abundance to the entire country, but this cannot materialize in Oriente due to the unyielding acts of subversive criminal bands who systematically destroy all that which could make an effective contribution to the country's development. This Central Electric Generator will have a capacity of 22,000 kilowatts of basic power, under environmental conditions of San Miguel. It functions with a simple-cycle, industrial type, heavy duty turbine, which consists of a 17-stage compressor, 10 combustion chambers, and the turbine has 2 stages. The generator will be fueled by combustible diesel and can be operated locally as well as by remote control. The generator will have a capacity of 29.7 milliamperes with an outflow voltage of 13.8 kilovolt-amperes and a power factor of 0.85. Furthermore this Central Electric Generator will have a sizeable submerged fuel tank, a step-up transformer 15/20/25 milliamperes, 13.8/46 kilovolt-amperes, and the equipment necessary to connect the generator with the national transmission network. The specifications indicated give the plant a capacity to efficiently provide energy to the eastern area. It is estimated that the cost of the work will be 25 million colons which will be covered 29 percent with CEL's own funds while the balance will be obtained elsewhere. [Excerpts] [San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Sep 83 pp 5, 13] 9678

CSO: 3248/10

HUGE ENERGY BILL PROMPTS GREATER USE OF WOOD AS SOURCE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by Hills Campbell]

[TEXT]

BURDENED by a huge energy bill, Guyana is turning to wood as a source of power.

A programme to build several wood gasification plants as part of an energy diversification programme aimed at reducing dependence on imported petroleum is being finalised, Abel Felix, Chairman of the Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA), said in an interview this week.

Though rich in minerals, and having a variety of potential energy sources, Guyana imports some 90 per cent of its energy needs.

The wood gasification programme is expected to come on stream in 1984, Felix said.

With some five-eighths of its territory dominated by forests, Guyana hopes to boost the development of most of its industrial development programmes with the aid of power generation from wood. The first wood gas plant would have a 550 kilowatt capacity.

Minerals such as kaolin and manganese would be mined and

processed with wood energy.

Significantly, the programme would come on stream in January 1984 and would be used to power a sawmilling complex at Mabura Hills where an in-depth programme of re-afforestation and lumber production is being intensified.

Guyana, a word meaning 'land of many waters', has for years entertained the hope of harnessing its hydropower resources for development.

Its application to the World Bank for financial assistance ran into a stalemate following objections by neighbouring Venezuela.

Several factors inhibit our proposed 760 megawatts hydropower scheme, especially Venezuela's spurious claim to our territory', said Felix adding, 'in any event, the hydropower project is still to be pursued.'

Guyana has not yet discovered oil in exploitable commercial quantities, but the search is continuing at both on and off-shore locations.

Plans are already afoot to modify diesel-

powered electrical plants to accommodate wood and gas systems.

Felix said all sawmill owners would be encouraged to use wood energy once the wood gasification programme comes on stream.

It is hoped that eventually certain types of vehicles would be equipped with gasifiers, thus reducing the amount of fuel used for transportation which accounts for 15 per cent of the country's oil bill.

Dealing with other aspects of the country's energy programme, Felix said an existing two megawatts hydropower scheme is to be upgraded to 50 megawatts and that a number of small schemes might be implemented later.

In October, energy experts from Grenada and Suriname will join their counterparts in Guyana for a three-day biogas seminar under the auspices of the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE).

'Five years from now, there will be a mature, cohesive and dynamic energy programme,' said Felix. (IP8).

FUEL SHORTAGE BRINGS CONTENTION OVER CAUSES

Charge of Illicit Deals

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

THE Guyana National Energy Authority yesterday offered evidence in support of its contention that illicit dealing in fuel was partly responsible for the present shortage of fuel.

After stopping a sale at an East Bank gas station and another at a city gas station earlier this week, GNEA Chairman Abel Felix called in the Press to see a tanker taken to Alberrtown Police station with 780 gallons of fuel.

The truck, owned by an interior contractor, had collected the fuel from the Texaco Gas Station on Vlissengen Road on Wednesday, a statement from GNEA disclosed.

GNEA said the owner of the tanker had complied with an order from Cde Felix to return the fuel to the gas station.

Chairman Felix claimed that the action by the owner of the tanker and gas station was partly responsible for the shortage motorists were now experiencing.

Cde Felix said in future gas station owners and purchasers of bulk fuel who do not comply with instructions to collect at Ramsburg, East Bank Demerara would feel the full weight of the law. The gas station in question could be closed by the Fire Department, which is responsible for monitoring the movement of fuel in the country, and the purchaser could be prosecuted.

Both the owner of the tanker and the manager of the gas station breached the instruction on the permit to purchase bulk fuel. The

instruction on the permit states that fuel must be secured at Ramsburg.

The 780 gallons were to be dispatched to Lassano in the interior but an alert member of the Fire Service arrested the vehicle and ordered it to Alberrtown Fire Station where it was inspected by Cde Felix, accompanied by Fire Chief Wilfred Douglas and Fire Prevention Officer Duncan Green.

The GNEA Chairman again asked owners of gas stations not to sell bulk fuel to anyone as arrangements have been made for purchasers of bulk to be supplied at Ramsburg.

Fuel delivered to gas stations is intended for the transportation system and gas stations are not permitted to sell more than one gallon in containers.

Miners' Position

George GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

GOLD miners have
decried recent

suggestions that their
purchases of fuel are

responsible, wholly or partly, for the current shortage of gasoline.

At a Gold and Diamond Miners' Association meeting Wednesday, miners said the accusations were "a bit malicious of miners" and would agitate the public against miners.

An Energy Authority spokesman recently placed some blame on purchases of fuel by miners for the temporary shortage of gasoline. The official, while admitting that the non-arrival of expected fuel shipments had contributed to the shortage, said the situation was aggravated by miners' purchases.

However, according to

President of the Miners' Association Eugene Adams, the gold and diamond mining industry uses diesel for 90 per cent of its fuel needs. This type of fuel, the official stated, is not in short supply.

He added that gold miners have not yet collected about two-thirds of their current allocations of fuel from suppliers.

An officer of the association is expected to despatch a letter to the Chairman of the National Energy Authority seeking clarification of the allegations made against the mining sector. (GNA).

GOVERNMENT TAX AS PART OF GAS PRICE DISCUSSED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Sep 83 pp 1, 11

[Text]

Nineteen cents of the overall \$1.34 increase on gasoline, including aviation fuel, as part of measures announced by the Government on June 16 to safeguard the economy, is taxation.

The 19 cents taxation however, does not apply to diesel oil; and the tax input was made to protect the tax base.

Divulging this in the House of Representatives, yesterday afternoon, The Minister of Labour and the Public Service and Leader of Government Business, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith attributed the remaining \$1.15 of the increase to "parallel market operations."

Mr. Smith was piloting, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Edward Seaga, who is down with laryngitis, a motion to confirm the order imposing the measures which were announced on June 16 by Ministry Paper No. 24.

The motion, the Consumption Duty (Amendment)(No.3) Resolution, which sparked a lively debate in the Chamber causing the Speaker the Hon. Talbert Forrest to repeatedly call for good conduct, was passed on division with all 25 Government members present voting for it and the 6 Opposition members voting against it.

Under the increase which came into immediate effect on June 16, premium gas moved from \$4.65 to \$5.99.

MAKING THE DISCLOSURE about the tax element, Mr. Smith said the \$1.34 increase consequent on Ministry Paper No. 24, had two component parts. The first part was the "natural increase" of \$1.15 which he linked to "parallel market operations". The second increase, was the element of taxation.

Declaring that he had said so "straight and plain lest somebody misunderstand me," Mr. Smith stated the reason for the tax input.

The Government had got to at all times budget and recognise if prices go up, then elasticity might not be in the market. So one had to make some compensatory redress in case taxation fell to protect the tax base.

"That is the main reason why the Government in its wisdom sought to protect its own income in the form of taxation from gasoline by putting 19 cents in the \$1.34 for premium...." he said, adding that the taxes also covered regular gas and aviation fuel.

The latter fuel with a consumption of 16,000 barrels for the year and which attracted some 60 per cent of duty had "very little revenue significance compared to premium and the regular gasoline," he said.

Aviation fuel, Mr. Smith said, was used by small aircraft for purposes such as agricultural crop spraying, flight training, and also internal flight service.

LEADING OFF the Opposition's response to the motion and the "taxation" disclosure, Mr. Seymour Mullings stated that the Opposition was opposed to the increase on petroleum and would not be supporting the motion.

The Opposition spokesman on Finance flayed the Government for what he termed an "act of deception" which reflected the "level of callousness" with which the Government treated the Jamaican public.

Mentioning the demonstration which had been organised when the P.N.P. Government in 1979 had increased the price of gasoline and the fall in oil price, Mr. Mullings questioned how the Government could have taxed gasoline. He also said the Minister of Finance had not said anything about the gas tax when he could have

Mr. Mullings called for a rollback in the price of

gas to April 1 this year. He also charged that it was now six months into the financial year yet no Budget had been presented to the country. Mr. Mullings challenged Government Ministers to say what the allocations for the different sections in their Ministries were.

Mr. Mullings also asked what steps were being made by the Government to ensure fuel conservation.

Opposition spokesman on the Public Utilities, Mr. Horace Clarke, described the gas tax as "wicked" and asked what had happened to the \$31 million which had been left in the stabilization fund by the P.N.P.; what was the situation regarding the Venezuelan/ Mexico oil facility; and profit from the transactions with Nigeria.

Mr. Clarke charged that the Government was only laying the basis for further price increases as he spoke of difficulties being experienced in financing the oil bill because of "mismanagement." He asked where Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica was getting the \$20 million monthly needed for oil imports?

Stressing the importance of more emphasis being placed on energy conservation, Mr. Clarke charged that the Ministry of Mining and Energy needed a political lead.

THE GOVERNMENT member for Western Hanover, Dr. Horace Chang, said that the tax was there to protect the resources of the country. The Opposition, although they had had the opportunity, did not debate the measure at the time when it was introduced.

He wondered if their approach to the matter did not stem from moral dishonesty to deal with it in the way that they had in the absence of the Prime Minister.

There was no option but to support the motion and to congratulate the Government for measures to restore production from which the country could build.

Opposition member, Mr. Dudley Thompson spoke of the plight which the country was facing and called

for national unity "to get us out of the hole." This could only be done if the Government was frank and was prepared to level with the people. The Government must tell the people the truth, Mr. Thompson said, as he referred to questions raised in the House which to date had not been answered.

He also charged that Texaco had to bail out the Government recently when a ship brought oil here.

To all Government members who were saying that all was well, Mr. Thompson advised them to go into their constituencies and say so, detailing the "ripple effect" of the increase in the gas price on poor people. He said gasoline should be put back on the official market.

OPPOSITION MEMBER, Mr. Terrence Gillette also supported arguments advanced by his colleagues, stating that he wanted the press to record who would be voting for the motion.

Closing the debate, Mr. Smith asked the Opposition to change their stance and support the motion. The measure, he said, had been in place from June.

Were the Opposition not going to support something which the public understood since June and was paying the new price at the pumps? Or was the Opposition interested in making the headlines?

The only option to the parallel market and the measures, was a full-scale devaluation, Mr. Smith said. The Prime Minister ought to be congratulated for devising measures which avoided a full devaluation and arrested the rate of increases that otherwise would have hit the country.

Mr. Smith attributed the Opposition's response to the fact that their party's conference was on this week.

Mr. Smith said it was the hope of the Government that the time would come when gasoline and other essential goods could be shifted back to the official market.

The motion was then put to the House. There was a division which saw the motion being passed along party lines.

TEXACO SEEKS GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO REFINER EAST COAST CRUDE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Incorporated had asked the Government to subsidize the purchase of east coast crude oil to the tune of \$6 (US) per barrel if that product were to be processed at the Texaco refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre.

The company put this proposal to a team of technical officers during the discussions between the Government and the company on Textin's future role in the local petroleum industry.

This was revealed yesterday by a source close to the discussions. He said Texaco made the proposal that the Government could assist with the purchase of east coast crude, produced by the Amoco Trinidad Oil Company, with a subsidy of \$6 (US) on each barrel which would then be processed at Pointe-a-Pierre.

Asked whether the Government would be favourable to this idea or not, the source answered by saying that there was also "the option of buying foreign crude at a cheaper price" than the high grade Galeota product to supplement the Texaco feed.

He added that if the Government were to subsidize the purchase of Amoco crude the treasury could suffer an even greater loss than that which Texaco claimed was now occurring as a result of the export of the total production of crude produced at Galeota.

Amoco had a daily throughput of some 40,000 barrels a day, all of which is exported. The company fetches between \$36 and \$42 (US) on the open market, depending on market fluctuations.

The company has said that the lighter grade product which has a higher potential yield on refined petroleum products could not profitably be processed at Pointe-a-Pierre.

But in a counter-charge to this position and in what Texaco officials said was an attempt to "set the record straight," Textin's President and General Manager, G. Lloyd Austin, said that his company could indeed "effectively and economically" process east coast crude, adding that the refinery had in the past processed "many lighter crudes than the Galeota production."

The company has been making a case for what it says is the "uneconomical" refinery operations now in force. The company stopped importing crude oil last year and under interim arrangements organised by the Government it now processes 65,000 barrels a day, 37,000 of which comes from the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc).

Texaco has said also that it needed at least 100,000 barrels a day for the refinery to begin to be economically run and it is in this context the company drew reference to the east coast crude.

Asked to comment on the matter, Government sources would say only that it was "interesting" that Texaco did not say how much it would pay for the east coast crude.

When this question was put to the company this week, officials issued a statement saying that to the best of their knowledge all of Amoco crude was being exported and none was being made available on the local market.

The company felt strongly that "it would not be appropriate" for them to be discussing price at this time.

GUARDIAN EXAMINES, ANALYZES OIL REFINING PROBLEM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Sep 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

ON the surface, it appears logical and desirable for any oil producing country to seek to refine as much of its own crude as possible. And in the situation of transition and rationalisation which Trinidad and Tobago now finds itself, this argument may appear readily attractive.

On the one hand, we produce an average of 177,000 barrels per day of crude oil. On the other hand we now find ourselves with two refineries running at a loss way below even their minimum capacities. To the layman the solution appears obvious: If Texaco is no longer importing crude for its refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre, then to save a shut down with all its economic repercussions let us now turn to refining as much of our own.

UNPREDICTABLE

But more knowledgeable experts in the industry tell us that the solution is not that simple. Nothing, in fact, is that simple anymore in the international petroleum industry with its highly volatile markets and rapidly shifting patterns. Having to

trade in such an unpredictable situation, in fact, it is crucial for a small developing country such as Trinidad and Tobago to strive for the fullest possible protection of its revenue base by striking the best balance between its exposure to the vicissitudes of the two oil markets, the one for refined products and the other for crude.

The volatility of the markets stem from the high tension between developing countries which seek the highest prices for their crude and the consuming nations wanting to keep the cost of refined products at their lowest level.

In such uncertain conditions, the key consideration for Trinidad and Tobago must be the maintenance of the country's economic security and there is the possible danger that this could be jeopardised if disproportionately large quantities of domestic crude were now funnelled into the local refineries.

The unstable nature of the market for refined petroleum products is well known, the result of the world recession, increasing success in conser-

vation methods and the search for alternative sources of energy. Indeed, the market for fuel oils — used traditionally for heating homes on the east coast of the United States and for which the Texaco refinery at Point-a-Pierre was principally geared to supply — has totally collapsed.

What if, for the sake of argument, we should use up the bulk of our crude for local refining only to find markets for our products similarly drying up?

A sensible balance, then, must be struck between the two markets and the experts tell us that refining 50 per cent of our crude and exporting the remainder would be the ideal division.

Also we understand, there are serious technical considerations which appear to make it quite impractical and uneconomical for local crude produced by Amoco to be refined at Pointe-a-Pierre. One basic fact is that crudes

are crudes and refineries are refineries; the former having their characteristic qualities and the latter their individual configuration and it is no facile process to match one economically with the other.

Texaco's refinery is oriented largely to producing fuel oils. We are told that it does not have the configuration to deal economically with large volumes of Amoco's production which is a high-quality crude with a minimal fuel oil cut but rich in middle distillates such as kerosene and gas oil.

Amoco sells its crude to the Texas City Refinery which has a far more sophisticated conversion capacity designed to handle higher quality crudes.

To bring the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery back to viability, it seems that the additional 45,000 bpd should be obtained elsewhere. Perhaps a Venezuelan crude may be the answer.

BRIEFS

TOBAGO GASOLINE INTERRUPTION--Users of regular gasoline in Tobago will be without that commodity until October 15 because a leak has developed in the main storage tank of the National Petroleum Marketing Company at Crown Point. According to the NPMC, there are adequate stocks of premium gasoline at the Terminal for distribution so they do not anticipate that there will be any problem for the consumers. NPMC estimates that the tank will be back in operation by October 15 and has assured consumers with preference for the regular gasoline that they are doing everything to solve the problem quickly. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/036

AMERICAN JURISTS MEET, HEAR DENUNCIATIONS OF U.S.

Report on Proceedings

St Georges **FREE WEST INDIAN** in English 31 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

JURISTS from some 18 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean who participated in the sixth conference of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) here last week, have rejected United States president Ronald Reagan claims that Grenada or its new international airport pose a threat to US national security.

This was contained in a unanimously approved final declaration issued at the end of the five day conference.

It said the conference denounced US attempts to frustrate the airport's construction and rejected "as totally unfounded and dishonest the allegations of US president Reagan that the airport, now under construction, is designed for hostile military operations and that Grenada constitutes a threat to the national security of the USA."

Some 90 jurists attended the conference, which had as its theme: The Right of the People to Real Peace, Independence and Economic Development in the Americas and the Caribbean."

A wide range of socio-economic and political issues, including the arms race, world peace, imperialist aggression in Central America, economic self-determination and the right to form labour and workers organisations, were discussed in its three working commissions on peace, Independence and Economic Development.

Grenada's Minister of Justice, Kendrick Radix, was elected AAJ president for the next two years, replacing Nicaraguan Justice Minister Ernesto Castillo. Deborah Jackson, a US jurist, was re-elected general secretary.

The conference formally accepted Grenada,

Martinique and Trinidad and Tobago as full members of the AAJ, a grouping of progressive lawyers of the Americas and Caribbean formed 10 years ago.

The final declaration, proclaimed as the 'Declaration of St. Georges', in homage to free Grenada's heroic and revolutionary people, also condemned US-inspired attempts to isolate Grenada, as demonstrated in the hostility displayed towards it by the Jamaican and Barbadian Prime Ministers.

It sharply denounced US aggression against all the peoples in Central and South America and the Caribbean in their legitimate struggle for national liberation and social and economic justice.

In this regard, it condemned the US government's criminal attempts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government and the subservient role played

by the Honduran regime towards this end.

Support was expressed for the proposal that the Caribbean be recognised as a zone of peace, free from all naval, air or military bases maintained by the US or any other foreign power.

At the same time, it came out against current US naval, air and military manoeuvres in Central America and the Caribbean "as a futile, provocative attempt to intimidate Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada and frustrate the struggle of the Salvadorean people for their liberation."

The conference sharply condemned US interference in El Salvador and the genocidal war being waged against that country's peasant population, with US participation.

Also criticised was the US government's "stubborn refusal" to

proposals put forward by the Nicaraguan government and the Salvadorean revolutionary forces for a negotiated settlement to the political crisis in Central America.

The jurists expressed support for the proposals for a negotiated settlement put forward by the Contadora group, which comprises Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution was also featured in the declaration which denounced all the criminal and aggressive actions which US imperialism has sought to carry out against it.

It emphasised its support for the call by developing countries for a New International Economic Order (NIEO), adding that it is "the sole means of securing international peace, friendly international relations and world economic stability."

In a press conference last Friday, Min. Kadix pointed out that the conference indicated that the role of the lawyer is becoming more developed through his concern for fundamental rights and social justice.

He disclosed that large delegations came from the US and the English and French speaking Caribbean.

Countries represented were Barbados, Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States Uruguay and the US Virgin Islands.

Jamaican Delegate's Speech

St Georges FREE WEST INDLAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 11

[Text]

JAMAICAN lawyer, Roy Fairclough, has called on the world community and especially the Americas to take strong action to arrest what he called flagrant breaches of the rules of international law by the United States of America.

He made this call in his presentation entitled 'Destabilisation of Foreign Governments as a breach of international law', at the Sixth Conference of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) held here recently.

He pointed out that although direct intervention by US forces may have taken a step into the background during the 1970's, in that there have not been actual landings of marines on territory under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, destabilisation, however, has

significantly intensified.

He pointed to Jamaica as one of the countries in which this destabilisation resulted in the topple of the Michael Manley government, and the institution of what was he said described by a US State Department Official as "our man in the Caribbean."

The destabilisation of the Government was a feature of developments between 1976 and 1980, when the government was a feature of developments between 1976 and 1980, when the government of Manley's Peoples' National Party was ousted in a "bloody election which claimed hundreds of lives".

He pointed out that the violence dropped dramatically "as soon as the Pro-American Jamaican Labour Party led by Edward Seaga was installed in power."

He listed a number of things which happened in Jamaica during 1976 and 1980 which he felt point to a destabilisation of the government.

First, "there was the unprecedented violence in which armed gangs terrorised and murdered almost at will".

Fairclough identified the behaviour of the security forces which he said not only allowed territories of the now ruling Jamaica Labour Party to operate freely, but which saw the army and police in almost open confrontation with the government harassing, killing and terrorising Manley supporters.

Thirdly, he said, the government was destabilised by the activity or non-activity of members of the business and manufacturing company who closed down or minimised their operations, made their community who closed down or minimised their operations, made their workers unemployed, illegally exported currency outside the country and hoarded essential food items which appeared in shops the day after elections.

Destabilisation was achieved, he said, in the curtailment of foreign credit.

This destabilisation, Fairclough said, resulted in the weakening of economic performance, the people's loss of confidence in the government and its ability to govern, and

the bullying of government supporters into submission.

Fairclough feels that further "illegal activity on the part of the US and its allies, continue in the Caribbean". The latest overt activity, he said, concerns the military and naval manoeuvres now being conducted "in an effort to bully Nicaragua and the admitted US support for armed bands operating out of Honduras, which carry out frequent raids across the border into Nicaragua."

Fairclough listed Cuba as a country which, since its independence from Spanish Colonial rule, has been the target of repeated acts of invasion, intervention, aggression and destabilisation by the US.

Several other countries in the Americas, notably Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala, have during this century been the victims of attacks against territorial

integrity and economic development, Fairclough said.

The economic blockade instituted against Cuba, designed to destabilise its economy with resultant dislocation and instability in its political system, is being used, said Fairclough, against Grenada and Nicaragua.

U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA SAID TO PRECLUDE MILITARY VICTORY

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 7

/Commentary by Ariel Ramos/

/Text/ From the machinations in the negotiations on Central America with the Contadora Group on one side and Stone and Kissinger on the other, the conclusion can now be reached that a military solution--the only one that can definitely solve the crisis that has the region on the verge of falling into the clutches of communism not too long from now--does not figure on the U.S. agenda.

It appears that the difficulties facing the United States in its efforts to protect its interests and save Central America from communist aggression, which will culminate sooner or later in a series of power seizures, are insuperable. For whatever reason, the United States is still tied to the disastrous "no win" policy against communist aggression. Nicaragua and El Salvador are the most recent and eloquent examples that the forces that have made possible the existence and survival of the USSR and its cruel imperialism at the expense of liberty and democracy throughout the world and American power and prestige are still present here.

The Reagan administration has amply demonstrated that the USSR and Cuba were for all practical purposes the authors of the communist takeover in Nicaragua and that the guerrillas are still destabilizing and ruining El Salvador. The charges and accusations which President Reagan has been making for approximately 3 years have been so well substantiated that there can be no other solution except counterintervention supported by a consensus of the sister republics of the hemisphere. But that solution looks more distant each day despite the administration's offensive, which is weakened by the fact that the negotiation tactic is receiving more attention than the military tactic. The facts do not indicate otherwise.

In 1981, when President Reagan's devastating rhetoric led to the presumption that unequivocal action against the communists in Central America was imminent, the secretary of state, Alexander Haig, met in Mexico with the vice president of communist Cuba, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and the undersecretary of state for African affairs, Chester Crocker, visited Havana to obtain an agreement for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, while the Department of State was denying that that was his mission.

In 1982 the President of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, loosed his tremendous broadside in favor of the communists, warning the United States that it should discard any intention of intervening in Central America and proposing a nonaggression pact with Nicaragua. That proposal was not rejected by Haig and was included in a counterproposal that contemplated a prohibition against the continued training of Nicaraguan exiles on U.S. territory, the renewal of economic assistance so desperately needed by the Sandino-communists, a nonaggression pact with Nicaragua with a commitment to protect it against aggression of any kind, and an agreement not to send military advisors and assistance, not only to El Salvador, but to any other Central American country--in other words, another Kennedy-Krushchev pact in favor of Nicaragua in exchange for only one condition, that Cuba and Nicaragua abstain from sending aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

And right now we have the latest attempt at negotiation, which has the administration moving from one contradiction to another. There is now more than one indication of acceptance of the ideas of the protagonists of negotiation, the Contadora Group. Now we have the "roving" ambassador and if that were not enough, the maestro of planned defeat in the United States at the head of a panel of "notables." Now we have the Sandinists and Castro joining the Contadora Group and President Reagan giving Castro the benefit of the doubt. Here we have Stone talking with the guerrilla leader, Ruben Zamora, granting him the same legitimacy that the governments of Mexico and France gave him in 1981 in a joint communique that was highly criticized by the anticommunists, with the administration saying the next day that it would not talk with the Salvadoran leftists. Now we have President Reagan asserting that the proper forum for dealing with the Central American question should be the OAS, not the Contadora Group, and the Department of State saying the opposite the following day. Here we have Shultz warning that the naval and military maneuvers are meant to frighten.

And all this because apparently the administration has no other alternative except to negotiate and does not know how to do it after 3 years of exposing with ample proof facts that point to any other course save that of negotiation. We sympathize with President Reagan who knows better than anyone that negotiating with the communists at this point is equivalent to backing down. And--negating 3 years of maintaining a firm anticommunist position. We feel deeply for our President, who has not been able to make his solution prevail over that of the "establishment," which is the same one the latter imposed in the cases of Cuba, Iran, and Nicaragua. Unfortunately for the United States and the Free World, all of this appears to indicate that we continue to be tied to the "no win" policy against the communists.

9015

CSO: 3248/1293

OCLAE CONGRESS HELD IN MANAGUA; MORE COUNTRIES JOIN

Wheelock Opens Congress

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Sep 83 pp 1, 9, 10

[Excerpts] Youth, a Wall Against Imperialism

"The voices, arms and hearts of the strong student movement in the Americas must build a mighty shielding wall condemning imperialism's aggressions against the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

"We must undertake specific actions to counter the surprise attacks that imperialism is launching throughout the world and especially in the isthmus of Central America and in Latin America," Commander Jaime Wheelock said in his message welcoming the 85 delegates to the Seventh Congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students (OCLAE). The congress, entitled "Anti-Interventionist Solidarity to Victoriously Confront the Enemy," opened yesterday at noon in the auditorium of the "Maestro Gabriel" Institute in Managua.

Words of Welcome

"In Nicaragua we are defending the dignity and freedom of the countries of Latin America, and the Nicaraguan student movement, which fought the Somoza dictatorship, is now applying Sandinist principles and, we are sure, making us stronger to wage new battles in defense of the revolution," stated Gustavo Vega, the president of the National Union of Nicaraguan Students (UNEN), in his words of welcome to the delegates at the Seventh OCLAE Congress.

Jorge Gonzalez, president of the OCLAE, said that he was "pleased to take part in this Seventh Congress in the land of Zeledon, Sandino and Carlos Fonseca, which has fought exemplary battles in defense of the sovereignty of Latin American countries."

"We are going to redouble our efforts for solidarity with the students and people of Nicaragua, who have shown us an example of valor in making the counterrevolutionaries bite the dust of defeat," he pointed out.

He urged the delegates to the congress to keep the anti-imperialist banner on high and to struggle alongside the cause of exploited peoples.

Text of Wheelock Speech

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Sep 83 pp 1-8

[Text of speech by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), to the Seventh OCLAE Congress]

[Text] Comrades of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students,

Comrades of the International Union of Students (UIS),

Guest and observer delegations,

Student comrades, brothers all of you,

Our people today greet with warm and fraternal hospitality all of the comrades who have come to take part in the Seventh Congress of Latin American University Students.

Our National Directorate, our assembly and the activists in the Sandinist Front, the people's vanguard, attach extraordinary importance to this event, which is a landmark in Latin American involvement and an expression of solidarity by Latin American students at a time when our nations are the target of direct aggression by the U.S. Government.

The Nicaraguan people enthusiastically welcome this important political and organizational event and interpret it as a show of gratitude to, respect for and solidarity with the Sandinist People's Revolution.

Our Familiarity with Student Events

As Nicaraguans and as students too somewhat, we are familiar with these events, these meetings, this shaking of hands and sharing of ideas, because in the past they have played a major role in spurring on our struggle and the people's overall tasks.

In Nicaragua, as well as in all of Latin America and the Third World, students have played an enormously important role and on given occasions have played a decisive role in national liberation and in defending the cause of social progress and grassroots democracy.

There are so many examples of this in our homeland. It would take too long to tell you to what extent students have been involved in our struggles for independence, in the struggle for social progress, in the struggles against the armed interventions of American imperialism

and, of course, in the grassroots struggles, alongside the working class, alongside the peasants. We must, however, underscore the role that the revolutionary student movement is playing in revitalizing the Sandinist struggle and how the revolutionary students of Nicaragua are bringing a wealth of personnel, leadership and activism to what was not yet a historically strong movement in the 1960's.

We therefore feel that at given moments the student movement had to take upon itself the leadership of the revolutionary movement.

The labor movement, persecuted by the dictatorship, and labor organizations, in disarray after more than 40 years of repression and torture, found room in the student movement, from which they again waved the banners of Sandinism, thus bringing together all of the grievances of the working class and the peasants through the leadership of revolutionary students.

It was in the universities that the nucleus of men began to emerge who would later found, consolidate and guide the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Carlos Fonseca and other university students such as Silvio Mayorga began forging the revolutionary vanguard during those difficult and combative years of student struggles in the 1950's.

We are familiar with these events, because in one way or another we were present at them, ever since the continental organization was being formed and ever since several student leaders, who were also leaders of the revolutionary movement and of the FSLN, attended these congresses as delegates. We are talking about Casimiro Sotelo, who was president of the Student Center at the Central American University; Julio Buitrago, who was another student leader at Central American University; Edgard Munguia, who was president of the university students of Nicaragua; Miguel Bonilla, Francisco Meza, all of them martyrs and some of them members of the National Directorate. They were all also students and had to fight outside the classroom, as it were, to bring our country closer to national liberation more quickly. While they of course kept up their struggles within the universities to push student grievances, some of the comrades who are today working for the Sandinist People's Revolution also took part in these congresses, such as Comrade Daniel Ortega and Omar Cabezas too.

Thus, we feel warm brotherhood here and we know how valuable these meetings are, how valuable they are to educate, to politicize and to point out the crucial tasks that Latin America's students must undertake.

Students Already Have Two Revolutions in Latin America

Our comrades were telling us that 1983 marks the 65th anniversary of the Manifesto of Cordoba. This proclamation was signed exclusively by students, but it was also a political proclamation in which the student movement expressed its concern over society's destiny and problems. This unquestionably reflected greater maturity, which later manifested

itself not in another proclamation but in the active incorporation of students and their leaders into the national revolutionary movement. We are thus gratified to note that the Manifesto of Cordoba was in and of itself a historic event. Furthermore, however, as staunch Latin American revolutionary students, we can take pleasure in the fact that we played an active role in building two genuine, sweeping revolutions in Latin America: the Cuban Revolution in 1959 and the Sandinist People's Revolution in 1979.

We can take pleasure in the consolidation of the progressive and revolutionary movements that are making steady progress in Grenada and Suriname as well.

We now have a combative student and revolutionary movement in Latin America that is bringing us closer every day to freedom and national independence.

Our Americas have a common cause and a common demand, stemming from the oppression and dependence to which we have been subjected, stemming from the unjust structures that weigh on our peoples. We are talking about the great hope of liberation, the cause of the peoples who are struggling, rifle in hand, for their freedom, the cause of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Chile too.

Reagan or War in Small Doses

We are holding this Seventh Congress of Latin American Students amid a very harsh, very difficult situation for all peoples. We could say that the current situation is more fraught with international tensions and the danger of a conflagration than any other since the Second World War.

The Reagan administration is pursuing a policy under which the United States claims that it is entitled to dominate mankind and the peoples of Latin America in particular.

There is an active resurgence of imperialist policies; a resurgent imperialism is threatening the national sovereignty of our countries, manifesting itself in acts of fierce aggression.

There is a campaign under way to pressure, blackmail, harass and destabilize the socialist countries, the Soviet Union in particular.

The banners of anticommunism are being flaunted, in violation of the pledge that the United States made at the United Nations to respect the right of peoples to choose the social and economic systems that suit them best. Socialism first and then communism are historically the general social systems that a large part of mankind has deemed to be the most appropriate for resolving its age-old problems. But the United States does not respect this right of many peoples who

are leaving the path of capitalist exploitation to resolve their problems, and is frenziedly waving the banners of anticommunism.

Furthermore, the United States is encouraging and pursuing aggressive policies to destabilize countries that have begun their march towards social progress and independence. This is the case in Angola, where imperialism is on the attack with a trumped-up counterrevolution, as well as in Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba. Not only are they trying to destabilize governments and reverse revolutions; the imperialists are also trying to undo all of the gains that students, workers and political parties have made in certain "capitalist" democracies.

Imperialism is making a general move against socialism, against national liberation movements and against all progressive trends in the world.

A systematic policy is under way to halt and sabotage progressive trends, while at the same time...what is being encouraged? They are encouraging fascism, rightwing militarism, all of their allies, which in Latin America are military dictatorships; they are organizing and arming the most corrupt elements in society and all within a framework of an arms buildup and war-mongering, plunging the world into severe tensions.

Unity the Key to Combating Aggression

When we quickly review these problems, we see that the key is unity among all progressive movements, beginning with the movement of socialist countries, countries that are for national liberation, independence and economic transformations, the unity of social, grievance, student and revolutionary movements, unity against the policies of imperialism. We must unite and struggle. There is no other way to combat the rise of imperialism.

When aggression and imperialism policies are on the rise, the only answer is to fight back and build a restraining wall, to protest, to speak out actively and militantly and, if necessary, to repel by force of arms the aggressions that American imperialism launches.

Thus, in Nicaragua we are channeling the combativeness of students into the defense of our homeland. Thousands of students have joined the dozens of battalions that are right now fighting and defeating the counterrevolutionary gangs and they are prepared as well to repel direct U.S. action. Rifle in hand, Nicaragua's students will defend their homeland.

Latin American University Students Against the Crisis and Economic Dependence

Moreover, we are all familiar with the other crisis, because we have more than just a political crisis. We also have an economic crisis, an international economic crisis. It is part of the same campaign of aggression, because this crisis is besetting capitalism and the Western powers, which are trying to overcome it at the expense of our national interests.

You are all familiar with the figures on Latin America's debts. In the 1950's Nicaragua owed \$30 million, and now we are up around \$3 billion. Brazil is nearing \$100 billion, and Mexico, which also has a strong economy, which has oil and other important natural resources, as well as rapidly expanding industry, is approaching \$90 billion. The interest on their debt is greater than their total annual export earnings. We would say that these are the consequences, not the causes. The causes are different, and we would like to touch on at least one here, because it also has to do with the role of students.

What is the reason for this grave situation, which is making some economists think that societies such as those in Central America and some in the rest of Latin America are no longer viable? What leads them to think that? Why can't these countries balance their national budgets? Why can't they afford the raw materials they need to produce? For example, Nicaragua is having serious problems producing enough soap, textiles and plastic bags. We have to import tens of millions of dollars in raw materials for industry, and our exports are insufficient to cover this amount.

The underlying problem, however, has to do with the role that the capitalist economies assigned to our economies, inasmuch as the Western countries were more developed than we were. We were not strong enough to develop by ourselves, and thus these countries told Nicaragua, for example, that it had to produce coffee, cacao and sugar, in other words, to serve them dessert, a dessert that, moreover, dinner tables in Europe could do without. The same went for Costa Rica and El Salvador. Furthermore, they plundered our timber, bananas, minerals and resources. It is this role in the international division of labor (a subordinate role of producing basic, unprocessed foodstuffs) that has made it impossible for us to develop our own industries, to process our own raw materials. Thus, we produce enormous amounts of coffee, cacao, cotton and meat, but at consistently low world prices. When we try to react and produce a vehicle here in Nicaragua, we are unable to. Very few countries in the region can, and this is because there are transnational corporations there. The Argentines can manufacture motor vehicles, but General Motors is the company that makes them. Brazil puts out cars too, but that is because Volkswagen is there. The same goes for Mexico.

In other words, we do not really have industries of our own; we do not have industries that produce the means of production, but we do have economies that produce food. However, because we have been dependent, because we have been subjugated nations and because we have been politically oppressed countries as well, we have never been able to haggle over the prices of these foodstuffs. We are selling our coffee today at a lower price than in 1953. And we have to pay 10 or 20 times as much as in 1953 for the jeeps that we cannot produce. The same goes for oil. So what are our prospects? With this type of development, which dates back to the 19th century, our technical expertise boils down to picking coffee beans and cotton, cutting sugar cane or operating

an automated industry. The technology of which is a mystery to us. But what do we have to do to change this pattern? In the first place, we have to change the groundwork, the ground rules of society within our countries, so that we can then chart at least some sort of a road towards independence. Ultimately, however, the problem is up to students, to universities, to technology, to scientific research.

Liberation, a Comprehensive Undertaking

Even after political independence, there is no real independence unless we ourselves are able to process the raw materials that we produce. We have said this on several occasions to our university comrades. You represent our countries' true potential for rising above underdevelopment and dependence.

Some 80 percent of Nicaragua's corn is still grown with hoes in the highlands, and this is the country's main foodstuff. What do we have to do to change this situation? First, remove the peasant farmers from where Somoza and imperialism tossed them, from the highlands and the exhausted lands where they are never going to grow much corn. But to do this we had to undertake a revolution and overthrow the Somoza dictatorship. We had to begin removing them and we have already started.

We have handed over almost 400,000 manzanas [1 manzana=1.75 acres] of the finest land to the peasants, and we are going to continue giving them land, land that used to belong to large estate owners, idle land; we are giving this land to peasant farmers organized in a superior form of production. They already have tractors, better work tools, improved seeds. We have a better answer and we are moving forward. But what about these improved seeds? Are we going to continue buying them? How can we produce them here if we do not have expertise in genetics? How can we produce our own breeds of chicken if we do not know genetics? How can we become independent in this regard? This is a challenge for our universities. This is why we are saying that one of the biggest challenges facing our young people is to consolidate the revolution by defending it against the gangs and imperialism and, at the same time, to take up the task that many previous generations were unable to accomplish because they were victims of imperialism and domination: to bring technological progress to the country, to develop the country. This is common to Latin America. The historic task of revolutionary students is to undertake the revolution and to further the revolution with their scientific and technological know-how.

These are truly decisive tasks, and of course they have their specific daily, weekly, monthly and yearly manifestations. We also wanted to discuss this, even if just in three or four lines.

The Nicaraguan Revolution, a Victory for All Peoples

We owe you a few explanations. There is much talk about the Sandinist People's Revolution; at times even we do not appreciate all

that this revolution means. When many of us do grasp something of what it might mean, we are astonished because we see more than ourselves; we see everyone and we say that this revolution is not just a Nicaraguan revolution, that it goes beyond Nicaragua. It is bigger than we are. This is because it is the second major revolution on the American continent, coming 20 years after the first, the Cuban Revolution. What is this revolution? In the first place, this revolution is an affirmation of the sovereignty and desire for freedom of a people who did not have them.

Secondly, it is a response to the imperative need to transform this country's social structures so that it can live in stability and lasting peace. Life was impossible in Somoza's Nicaragua. There were 1,000 or 2,000 families that lived very well, and another 3,000 or 4,000 that lived as well as any imperialist family could. In contrast, tens and hundreds of thousands of people were condemned to hunger and poverty, oppressed, mistreated, persecuted. There was no domestic peace, there was no stability, society was disintegrating.

Sovereignty: Just a Word

The reason was that Nicaragua was never Nicaragua; from the viewpoint of the North, Nicaragua was a place where a canal could probably be built, a place through which the strategic supplies of the United States moved. It was a place that provided the lumber to build homes in Virginia, Kentucky, New Orleans and Miami, a place from which the United States extracted the gold that it now has great reserves of.

Ours was the country from which rubber was taken during World War Two, the country from which cotton was shipped during the Korean War when supplies from the Far East were cut off, the country that began exporting sugar when the Cuban Revolution had its quota cut off on the U.S. market. The dictatorships in the region are surely going to become sugar exporters as well because they will benefit from the Reagan administration's cut-off of our sugar sales to the United States.

In other words, we were a country without decision-making power of our own; we were not a real nation. We were on the map with a name and borders, but these borders, these government officials, these towns did not exist. We were a colony of the United States, and to keep its colony under control the United States occasionally sent in troops to deal with any nationalist move in Nicaragua, to crush those wishful thinkers who might have once believed that Nicaragua could be independent of the United States. And if the United States did not send in its own Armed Forces, then it used troops that it had trained, organized and armed and was commanding.

They found a family of unscrupulous mercenaries here, the Somozas, who helped the United States to set up a government that kept the people down and furthered U.S. interests. This government was based on a three-party alliance. First, there was a military dictatorship, a

military guard or caste. One of its allies was a reactionary church hierarchy that had sold out, that blessed the weapons of the United States and cursed the weapons of revolutionary patriots, that said masses for and declared Anastasio Somoza Garcia a prince of the Church and did not allow Rigoberto Lopez Perez to be buried in its cemetery. The military and the Church hierarchy were, in turn, allies of the oligarchy. These were the three parties to the national government. And we can find them also in...where? We can find them in El Salvador, in Honduras, in Guatemala, in the Dominican Republic and even still in Haiti.

Old Lies Against a New Banner of the People

With minor variations, this was the panorama in Latin America in the 1960's and 1970's. So when the Nicaraguan revolution sought to forge national unity among all progressive elements in society and to free us from the tripartite power group that was the local representative of imperialism, we rose up and unfurled a Latin American banner, a Third World banner and with that Third World and Latin American banner we toppled Somozism and we defeated imperialism.

No sooner had we thrown out the Somozas and the venal and corrupt oligarchs and priests than they began singing the same old McCarthyist tune about "the communists coming to power" (with the pejorative tone that they use in speaking of communists), "democracy is dead," etc. We began hearing all of the slogans, all of the messages, all of the lies, all of the fallacies, all of the campaigns of the CIA in a bid to misrepresent our revolution. They are trying to portray Nicaragua as if it were a Soviet base, as if the Soviet Union were seeking bases from which to attack someone, when everyone knows who is seeking bases from which to attack. They are portraying us as a satellite of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

They would have people believe that we have completely lost our identity.

The view that the United States, that the Reagan administration has stems from this significant development. The United States lost "its" Nicaragua, which because it is not with the United States, is against it, and since the United States sees the Soviet Union as its enemy, a Soviet Union that speaks of peace, detente and doing away with exploitation, Nicaragua is an enemy too. And because the United States does not know where we are headed, it says that we are with the Soviet Union, that we are a Soviet base. Deep down, however, the United States knows that this is not true; the government is doing this to deceive American public opinion and to catch the naive by surprise. The U.S. Government is lying because (and this is the underlying issue) it fears the Nicaraguan Revolution, it fears a revolution in which the people rose up and toppled a puppet government that it had installed, and the reason for its fears is that Nicaragua is talking about freedom, pluralism, a mixed economy and all of the dreams that imperialism and all the dictatorships spouted off about and never fulfilled.

It fears a just cause pursued by an entire nation. It is especially afraid because the Somoza dictatorship was a traditional, typical dictatorship in the image and likeness of U.S. interests. This was the model with which the United States dominated Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and, with few exceptions, all of our countries. The Nicaraguan Revolution dismantled and shattered this traditional model and proposed a different one based on national sovereignty, on the transformation of unjust structures and on serving the true interests of Nicaragua's citizens. We are talking about a superior form of democracy, a form that has nothing to do with elections Fernando Aguero-style, Somoza-style, threadbare elections. We are talking about democracy, perhaps elections, but not elections in the sense of putting up a candidate and passing out pork tamales in a bid to drum up support for local bosses at farcical campaign rallies. The aim is, rather, to reaffirm what the people have built and want to consolidate and carry firmly into the future.

Our Example Is a Threat to Imperialism

What is the people's revolutionary government? It is the one that is being built, and the mass organizations, as well our army and our government will undoubtedly have their place in any vote of the people. The leadership of the FSLN, together with the Patriotic Front of the revolution, will have to discuss how we are going to put before our people a representative of what we have already achieved. We are not going to make believe that it is 1959 again, pick some fellow and start passing out tamales and chanting slogans from house to house again. That would truly be betraying what this people has been building, because we want to build a new society, and the people need a new society, with new forms and relations of production, new power structures and, therefore, new democratic structures. This is the challenge before us, and it is both judicial, political and electoral. We need a new, grassroots answer that is in keeping with our people, with our people's maturity.

Thus, in itself Nicaragua poses a subversive threat to American imperialism, without a single Nicaraguan rifle showing up in El Salvador or Honduras. And note well that I am not even talking about the United States.

Nicaragua poses no threat to the United States. That is a lie. Nicaragua is no threat to Honduras or El Salvador. But let us be honest about it. Nicaragua does pose a threat, on behalf of all the peoples of Latin America and the Third World, to imperialism, to any imperialist claim that the sovereignty and the borders of the United States are to be found in Central America.

Nicaragua poses a threat to imperialist designs, to imperialist plans, to imperialist influence. Nicaragua is a threat to everything that imperialism embodies. Nicaragua is no threat to the U.S. administration; Nicaragua is no threat to the president of the United States; Nicaragua is no threat to the U.S. Armed Forces; Nicaragua is no threat to the domestic security of the United States; Nicaragua is a threat to any design against its sovereignty coming from inside the United States.

We Are a Threat, But Only to Aggression

So then, what Nicaragua is doing is affirming its sovereignty and in affirming its sovereignty it unquestionably poses a threat to any imperialist attempt to violate that sovereignty, just as the Soviet Union was also forced to down a plane that was engaged in hostile acts within its territory. Did they down a passenger plane? It is our understanding that they did not down a passenger plane. These are responses to provocations. We too downed a civilian plane here. But what was that civilian plane doing? Dropping bombs all over Managua. We had to shoot down that plane and we have just downed another, and we are going to down any unidentified aircraft even if it misleadingly looks like a civilian one. Imperialism is thus also trying to make us engage in provocations. This is the threat that Nicaragua poses, the threat that our national undertaking will be successful and that we will therefore no longer accept age-old Yankee meddling and that we will keep our word to our people and discredit the clannish, brutal dictatorial models that the United States has spread throughout the Americas.

Necessity is the mother of change. There are several causes and revolutionary processes under way today, which confirms the revolutionary spirit and progress of peoples. We are not exporting revolution, because revolutions are not exported; they are undertaken by the people. It would be misguided and mercenary for us to think that we could overthrow other governments and promote real revolutions. We might be able to set up a puppet government, but real revolutions are going to be undertaken by the people at the proper time, and we prefer this to anything else. But an agrarian reform is under way here. How can this not be a worry for some Latin American governments? How cannot it not worry them that the people are armed here? What would happen in El Salvador if the Salvadoran people were armed? What would happen in Honduras if the Honduran people were armed? What would happen in Guatemala if the Guatemalan Junta suddenly armed the people? Those governments wouldn't last 30 seconds; that's what would happen.

Imperialism lost something important in the Americas as a result of the Sandinist People's Revolution. If we think of imperialism as a body, then it has surely lost some vital organ because of this revolution, if not both legs or arms or lungs. Of course, a severely wounded person reacts violently, lashing out like a madman, and this is what is happening right now in Nicaragua, Central America and other Latin American countries. It is not just on an international scale that imperialism is lashing out and reacting aggressively and provocatively. Imperialism is waging a war in small doses against Nicaragua, but in any event, a war.

In the Front Line Against Imperialism

At the moment we are struggling in a practically direct manner against American imperialism. The other day the Voice of America commented

on the plane that the traitor Eden Pastora sent on a mission against our civilian airport. It said that "the operation was carried out by the force called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], which is headed by Eden Pastora, and therefore did not involve the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, which the United States supports." And the Voice of America said this! It might not be the official mouthpiece of the Pentagon, but it's getting there.

First they tried to pressure us, to pressure us into no longer being ourselves, into once again becoming a U.S.-owned Nicaragua after the revolution. They told us: It doesn't matter; you can make whatever internal changes you like. Go ahead and expropriate the bourgeoisie's property. They had already broken their alliance with the bourgeoisie; in fact, they really did not have an alliance with the bourgeoisie. So they did not care about losing the bourgeoisie, but instead they wanted us to take international stands against the socialist countries, to sell ourselves out and support their policies in exchange for money and a promise that they were not going to attack us.

We had to take a principled stand, and then, of course, came the second step. They cut off economic aid and started worldwide campaigns against the Sandinist People's Revolution. Later, they began organizing the gangs, semi-officially asking Congress for \$20 million in December 1981 to arm the counterrevolutionaries. They visited Latin American countries, Argentina for example, recruiting mercenaries, undertook diplomatic efforts in Israel, Egypt and other countries, buying weapons and hiring advisers, and now we have two fleets off our coasts.

So we have to clearly realize the context in which this Congress is taking place. Our country is virtually blockaded, flanked by U.S. military forces that are without precedent in Latin America. When you arrived in Nicaragua, you saw that the civilian airport had been damaged by bombs. More than 30,000 of our young men, workers and peasant farmers are struggling along the border against the counter-revolutionary gangs that the Central Intelligence Agency sends in.

We live in a climate of relative peace, it is true, because this revolution is strongly and solidly rooted among the people, but to maintain this calm the people have to be mobilized 24 hours a day to combat these gangs.

The United States has declared a war in small doses on us and is waging it. What used to be a threat of direct military aggression from Washington, what was once days and perhaps months off, is today located off our coasts and in northern Honduras.

The large-scale aggression against the Nicaraguan Revolution has drawn nearer, and they are trying to provoke a conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua so that they can send in the forces that they have ready.

In Spite of Everything We Are Going to Consolidate the Revolution

What is the climate today? A nation under direct attack by the United States. Honduras is trying to build a democracy, but it is occupied by U.S. forces. Honduras is as occupied by the United States today as Nicaragua was in 1927. I would even go so far as to say that there are more Marines in Honduras today than there were here when General Sandino battled against U.S. intervention.

But the Marines are not just in Honduras. There are Marines in Panama too. They occupy two very important countries in a single region and they are moving forward to occupy a third through war. There are hundreds of Marines and advisers in El Salvador; there is an arms buildup in Guatemala, and there are Marines there too; the Costa Rican Government is under constant pressure to let navy forces land there.

So not everything is a bed of roses here. We are now going to do battle with U.S. aggression, at the expense, we might add, of much that we have accomplished over these years. But sovereignty and freedom at times have to be consolidated by suffering a bloodbath. And this country, which since its independence has been seeking freedom and further independence without provoking a conflict, is prepared to accept a new sacrifice to be free.

We are here in this trench ready to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty against U.S. imperialism and in so doing defend the honor, dignity and sovereignty of the peoples of Latin America.

The message from Nicaragua and the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front that I want to convey to you is that the most significant development today is direct intervention by the United States, which is provoking a war in Nicaragua, occupying a country like Honduras, launching a war against Salvadoran patriots, occupying the Panama Canal Zone and another part of Panama, adversely affecting a country like Costa Rica, promoting coups d'etat elsewhere, stationing fleets off our two coasts, threatening Cuba and threatening Grenada too.

What are we to do? We know what we have to do and we are doing it, weapons in hand, arming our people, our students and our comrades. As we said before, we are prepared here to defend our national sovereignty on our own. We ultimately know that the United States has not intervened not because it does not want to, but because if it does, it too will be drenched in blood.

We are not going to be attacked with impunity. Moreover, what could the United States gain through direct aggression? Could it take over a city? Perhaps it could. Perhaps after killing 30 or 40 percent of a city's residents, it could take it over. But for how long? If there are 100,000, 150,000 or 200,000 armed men fighting all over, who could stabilize the country? Let's suppose that 150,000 men suddenly rush in, dragging Robelo with them. So what? Could Robelo govern

for 5 minutes? This country would be ungovernable. And the toll would be tens of thousands of American citizens who would be the innocent victims of a stupid, aggressive, anachronistic policy.

What happened in Vietnam would happen here, and perhaps even worse, because the struggle is really not in Nicaragua. We are waving a banner of peace, of negotiation, of a political solution. We are ready to talk over many things: peace above all, world peace and regional peace. We cannot talk about world peace without talking about regional peace, because regional peace furthers world peace. So, our number one policy under all circumstances is peace.

The Struggle Against Imperialism Is Everyone's

The complement to this policy is the defense of the revolution, and this is where you come in. I would say that one major task is the unity of the Latin American student and revolutionary movement, political and organizational unity around the main tasks, not secondary or long-range tasks, but today's tasks. First, we have to oppose the interventionist policy of the United States, which is the most important development in recent times, and this could have profound repercussions in Latin America.

The United States now occupies Latin America, which has not happened since 1985. U.S. forces occupy several Latin American countries. We have to oppose this. How is it that an aggressor fleet can arrive and not be noisily condemned, when in the 1950's and 1960's the revolutionary movement and the student movement, if not others, made their strength felt throughout Latin America? We are not, of course, calling on university students to stone U.S. embassies. Latin American students can do a great deal, and we are asking them to do at least something to revive, rejuvenate and give strength to the combative student movement and to assign it a worthy, dignified, up-to-date role.

What we are saying is that we have to voice protests, to wage active protest campaigns. We are saying that we have to oppose every aggressive act by the United States and to make our opposition heard loudly on the continent and all over the world. Students are a vigorous force in Latin America, and when this vigorous force is in tune with the times and against unjust causes, it can accomplish as much as taking up arms.

We are talking here about arms to fight for what is right, the arms of political awareness, because it is very important for us to be the vanguard of our peoples. And of course we are ready to fight. That is the message from Nicaragua.

In 1956 we defeated U.S. expansionism in Nicaragua. In 1927, the bloody struggle that Sandino and other Nicaraguan patriots were waging furthered

the cause of nonintervention because a subsequent conference in Havana proclaimed the principle of nonintervention precisely because of the unequal struggle that was going on in Nicaragua.

So then, just as other nations such as Vietnam and Cuba, we are of course prepared, if necessary, to make an additional contribution to the freedom and independence of the Americas.

In the meantime, students and revolutionaries must erect a wall of protest and solidarity and condemn American imperialism with their every voice, with their every weapon, with all their heart. They must make our strength felt throughout the continent, because there are millions of us, and revolutionary students are also part of the force that Marti, Sandino and Carlos Fonseca, our heroes, our martyrs, spoke of.

Long live the Congress of Latin American Students!
Long live the Sandinist People's Revolution!
Long live the students of Latin America!
Long live the unity of the Latin American university movement!
Death to imperialist aggression!
A free homeland or death!

Delegates Interviewed

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Sep 83 p 12

[Text] "The existence of imperialist aggression is not at issue at the Seventh OCLAE Congress; what we are discussing is the role that every student movement on the continent should play to oppose this aggression in Latin America in general and Central America in particular."

The coordinator general of the 19 July Sandinist Youth, Carlos Carrion, a member of the Sandinist Assembly, made this comment to BARRICADA in analyzing briefly the political and military situation during the OCLAE congress in Managua, which representatives of 24 Latin American and Caribbean countries are attending.

The congress opened the day before yesterday at the RURD with some 85 delegates in attendance. Carrion felt that the student movement on the continent had made progress because it was no longer debating whether or not imperialist aggression exists. "It is taken for granted, and they are all united in their denunciation of the Reagan administration and in their solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution," he stressed.

Specific Action

"It is important for the congress to conclude by charting a specific course of action against imperialist aggression, which seeks to plunge the world into a brutal war," he stated, adding that both this and the fact that OCLAE will emerge stronger from the congress "will please us greatly."

On its first day of sessions the Seventh OCLAE Congress is giving indications "that it will be very successful and that imperialism will be battered by a more united Latin American student movement," said the president of OCLAE, Jorge Gonzalez, from the Cuban student movement. He pointed out that OCLAE was born in Havana 17 years ago with just a handful of countries, but "is now stronger with a membership of 25."

He said that the congress would approve the membership of four more countries, Brazil, Grenada, Bolivia and Peru. "OCLAE is now a continent-wide organization that has organized students around an anti-imperialist alliance, around a battle for reform, around the democratization of education and around conscious support for the struggle of peoples."

Venezuelans with Nicaragua

"As Venezuelan students we denounce the meetings that traitorous sectors in other countries have held in Caracas to harm the people's governments in their nations," said the Venezuelan delegate, Reinaldo Bravo, adding: "We condemn the fact that Venezuela has become a center for traitors to the peoples of the continent."

He recalled that Venezuela allows in members of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie, as well as "traitors to the Cuban people such as Huber Matos and Armando Valladares and Nicaraguan traitors like Steadman Fagot. A full-fledged anticommunist campaign is under way in Venezuela, and these traitors are taking advantage of it, but the student movement opposes these meetings."

The struggle against imperialism "is everyone's struggle, because if the aggression is not military, it is economic, as in my country, where imperialism, through the IMF, has devalued the bolivar from 4.5 to 14 to the dollar and is on the verge of putting more than 600,000 Venezuelans out of work and of further cutting back government spending on health care, education and services."

Brazil: Solidarity Urged

Bernardo Utchitel from Brazil felt that "the congress that is being held in a Nicaragua threatened by frigates will reaffirm the anti-imperialist principles of the student movement on the continent." He added that his country feels real solidarity with Nicaragua and that students are pressuring the government to name as soon as possible a Brazilian ambassador "to the homeland of Sandino, where we now have just a charge d'affaires."

Rogelio Chacon, representing the secondary school student movement in Costa Rica, said that "we will not allow our country to be used to attack Nicaragua, and we have already staged marches to pressure the government. We think that the time has come to take an anti-imperialist stand against the aggression being directed at Latin America and especially Nicaragua."

He asserted that the secondary school student movement, which is not yet part of OCLAE, "ought to be allowed to participate in the organization, and our movement is going to launch a campaign to get the movements in other countries to call for our inclusion."

Puerto Rico

Juan Otero from Puerto Rico stated that the student movement in his country was openly opposed to the Reagan administration's drive to recruit Puerto Rican students into the U.S. Armed Forces to attack Latin American nations. "Because of our efforts only 38 percent have registered, but we have to keep fighting so that fewer and fewer do."

He added that the struggle would be tough because the U.S. Government punishes those who refuse to register with a 5-year jail sentence or a \$10,000 fine. "If we had to join a military that looked out for the interests of the Puerto Rican working people, we would do so without hesitation, but we want nothing to do with the aggressor army of the United States."

Jimmy Leysner from Suriname said that things are quite clear. "We are up against a common enemy, imperialist aggression, and it is our duty to close ranks in light of this," he stated, adding that the students of Suriname felt complete solidarity with the Sandinist People's Revolution.

'Yankee Imperialism' Scored

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] The Seventh OCLAE Congress, which closed yesterday, further strengthened and united the Latin American and Caribbean student movement in the struggle against imperialism. Four more countries, Brazil, Grenada, Bolivia and Peru, joined the organization, which now represents 29 countries.

During the 3 days of intensive sessions in Managua, the 85 representatives of OCLAE discussed the role that each student movement would play against imperialist intervention and in the struggle for a reform and democratization of education.

Cold War Denounced

OCLAE once again reaffirmed its militant solidarity with the Sandinist People's Revolution. It resolved to condemn the "cold war" policy that Yankee imperialism is attempting to impose on the world, as well as all methods of exploitation and domination that the imperialists utilize to impose their policy of hunger and poverty on poor peoples.

The delegates expressed special solidarity with and devoted particular attention to the nations of Central America, Nicaragua and El Salvador above all, "because the region has become one of the main trouble spots in the world as a result of the aggressive, interventionist and irresponsible policy of the Reagan administration."

The representatives analyzed the political and military situation of the Nicaraguan Revolution, which is being assaulted by imperialism, concluding that this lends greater significance to the congress, at which OCLAE demonstrated why it is "the only genuine representative of the interests and aspirations of the continental student movement."

"The student movement grouped around OCLAE has reaffirmed its role as a staunch ally of the working class and other low-income segments of society in their struggle against imperialism," states the congress's final document, which also condemns colonialism, neocolonialism, fascism and Latin American and Caribbean reactionaries.

Elections

It was not until last night that the members of the OCLAE Permanent Secretariat were elected, because the closing session was carried over to Los Tayacanes, where a party was held for the delegates.

The officers in the OCLAE Permanent Secretariat were reelected to their posts. The presidency once again went to Cuba, and the six secretariats to Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Chile, Panama and Jamaica.

8743

CSO: 3248/31

CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS INVOLVING TRINIDAD-TOBAGO NOTED

CAIC Assessment

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Sunday (CANA) - The head of the region's major umbrella business interest group had identified the import licensing system used by some Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries as one of the hindrances to development of the free trade in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Trinidadian Tommy Gatliffe, President of the Barbados-based Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) told a group of businessmen here, however, that problems in the region were "man-made" and could be overcome.

Nothing that markets are vital to business development, Gatliffe, who heads a rum-manufacturing corporation here, pointed out that the notion of a common market in the region was false.

"I don't think I need to tell you that we don't really have a common market," he said, "there is not really a common external tariff. There is not really a free movement of goods in the region."

Gatliffe illustrated his point by quoting from Thursday's Barbados' Advocate which reported problems faced by Barbadian manufacturers in getting their goods into Trinidad.

The newspaper reported that manufacturers have complained that processing procedures are "too slow" with the waiting period for import licences stretching up to eight days.

The CAIC president quoted one Barbadian manufacturer as saying that the Trinidad licensing system (introduced last March in retaliation to Jamaica's introduction of a two-tiered currency system) was "just a mechanism to squeeze Barbados any time Trinidadians feel like it."

He again quoted the Barbados Advocate report in which manufacturers claimed they were losing money because of licensing delays, while already produced goods accumulated.

Gatliffe also reported that at least four Antigua and Barbuda manufacturers, including an appliance firm, had already been forced to reduce their staff to stay in business presumably because of delays in getting licences for their goods in Trinidad.

"We must maintain the integrity of the common market somehow," he said.

Gatliffe said the freedom of movement of goods must be accompanied by freedom of movement of other resources, including capital and skills.

"One goes hand-in-hand with the other," he said.

Barbados Exporters' Complaints

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Despite achieving their sales objectives several Barbadian exporters have reported a mood of growing protectionism in Trinidad and Tobago.

Some 18 exporters recently returned from a mission to that country, organised by the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (BEPC). The mission was led by Mr. John Watson, a member of the BEPC Board, and included six new exporters to the market.

EPC's Executive Director, Mr. Philip Williams, said exporters reported finding a mood of growing protectionism, as oil revenues declined and consumer demands contracted.

He said Trinidadian manufacturers were

reported to be particularly vigorous in calling on their Government for increased protection.

According to him: "This mood is incompatible with the continued growth and development of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and regional governments will have to resist such tendencies if the expansion of intra-regional trade is to continue unimpeded."

Some exporters also drew attention to the delays in the processing of some import licence applications in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly where garments were concerned, Mr. Williams said.

However, the EPC official said the members of the mission were pleased with the response to their products by the Trinidadian buyers and

"in most cases they achieved their sales objectives."

"The new exporters have either already appointed agents in Trinidad or hope as a result of contacts made while in Port-of-Spain, to do so," the EPC official pointed out.

He noted that in the view of the participants, Barbadian products continue to have wide acceptance in Trinidad and are recognised to be of good quality and competitively priced.

The EPC also came in for high praise in the organisation of the mission.

Mr. Williams said too that the corporation's trade representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Val Rogers, had played an important role in helping to resolve "our exporters' licensing and other problems in the Trinidad market."

CSO: 3298/037

RUNDOWN OF CDB LOANS APPROVED FOR CARIBBEAN NATIONS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados is to receive the lion's share of loans totalling more than U.S. \$3.5 million approved by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) at its 82nd board meeting held yesterday.

A Caribbean News Agency (CANA) report said last night that Barbados will be receiving U.S. \$2.5 million (Bds \$5 million) to help finance an ongoing programme of developing industrial estates.

The U.S. \$1.5 million remainder of the funds will also finance development projects in the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, a CDB spokesman was quoted as saying.

The Board also sanctioned a number of technical assistance grants approved by CDB President, William Demas, for member countries including St. Kitts Nevis, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Lucia.

The British Virgin Islands Development Bank will receive a loan of US \$1 million for financing agricultural and industrial projects, and the Turks and Caicos

Islands an additional loan of US \$232 000 for port development.

The CDB spokesman said the latest grant and loan approvals bring to US \$436 258 275 the total financing approved by the regional lending agency since its establishment in 1970.

The CDB technical assistance grants are going towards providing accounting services to the British Virgin Islands Fishing Company, financing a production management course at a shoe company in St. Kitts-Nevis, and providing the services of a consultant on scheduling to the Antigua-based Caribbean airline LIAT.

The meeting of expenses of participants from Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines who attended a coconut timber utilisation workshop in Jamaica is also covered under the grant approvals.

The CDB spokesman said the board of directors also okayed a contingent loan from the bank's Technical Assistance Fund for the preparation of tender documents for the construction of feeder roads in St. Lucia.

They approved too a grant from the CDB's United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-sponsored Caribbean Alternative Energy Systems Project for the construction of two solar distillation units at the laboratories of the University of the West Indies' Cave Hill campus here.

The Barbados Industrial Estate Development Programme, financed by the World Bank at an estimated cost of more than US \$10 million, is aimed at facilitating the island's industrial development.

It will provide additional factory space, create employment, additional foreign exchange earnings through exports, import substitution, and linkages to other sectors of the economy.

Barbados, which has been diversifying its economy over the last two decades, has to date established some 11 industrial estates across the island.

The Port Development Project at Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands received a previous CDB loan of US \$389 000 bringing total financing to US \$1.2 million.

CARIBBEAN EXPORTS TO UK UP SHARPLY FIRST HALF OF 1983

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 7 Sep 83 p 18

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, (Cana)-- Exports from the English-speaking Caribbean to the United Kingdom increased by 20.5 million pound sterling (\$73m TT) during the first six months of this year compared to exports for the same period last year, according to figures just released here.

The figures, released by the British High Commission show that for the period January to June 1983 Caribbean Export to the U.K. stood at 157.4 million pounds sterling compared to 136.9 million pounds sterling for the same period last year.

Caribbean imports from the U.K. for the first six months of this year increased by 68 million pounds sterling, up from 152.9 million pound sterling in the 1982 first half to 220.0 million pound sterling.

Of the 14 Caribbean countries listed, only the Bahamas, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago showed any increase in exports to the U.K. Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts-Nevis, Grenada, Belize, Guyana and Montserrat showed a decline in exports for the six-month period under review.

Of the 14 countries only six showed a drop in imports from Britain during the first six months of this

year compared to the same period last year.

Exports from Bermuda during the period January to June were valued at 2.3 million pounds sterling, compared to 3.8 million last year, while 1983 imports were worth 13 million pound sterling, compared to 8.5 million last year's first half.

The Bahamas exports to the U.K. stood at 20.2 million pound sterling, for the first six months of this year, against 4.1 million in the first half of 1982 and imports moved from 5.2 million sterling last year to 6.3 million this year.

Jamaica's exports to Britain for the first six months of this year were valued at 44.5 million sterling, down on the 51.4 million last year, and 1983 imports were put at 89.9 million sterling was above the 22.1 million last year's first half-- a 676.8 million pounds sterling increase. Exports to the U.K. from Antigua and Barbuda during the first six months of this year were worth 885,000 pounds sterling, compared to 958,000 last year's first half, while imports from the U.K. were put at 5.7 million pounds sterling, a fall in the 7.1 million of last year.

Exports from St Kitts-Nevis for the period January to June this year stood at 1.5 million pounds sterling compared to 2.8 million last year and

imports from the U.K. stood at two million pounds sterling in 1983, the same as last year.

Montserrat exported during the first six months of this year 75,000 pounds sterling worth of goods to the U.K., compared to 91,000 sterling last year and imported 1.2 million sterling worth of goods compared to 1.1 million in 1982.

Dominica exports to the U.K. this year were put at 5.3 million pounds sterling against 5.1 million last year and imports in 1983 were valued at four million sterling, compared to 3.1 million last year.

Saint Lucia exported 12.2 million sterling worth of goods to the U.K. during the first six months of this year against 8.4 million sterling worth last year, it imported 2.6 million pounds sterling to 1.8 million worth last year.

St Vincent and the Grenadines increased its exports to the U.K. during the first six months of 1983, with sales moving from 5.3 million pounds sterling worth of goods in 1982 compared to 1.6 million last year.

During the first six months of this year Grenada exported 2.8 million pounds sterling worth of goods to the U.K. compared to 2.3 million pounds sterling worth last

year. It's 1983 imports stood at three million sterling, compared to 1.5 million last year.

Barbados exports to the U.K. during the period January to June this year declined by 3.8 million pounds sterling. Barbados exported 2.5 million for the same period last year. It's imports moved from 13.2 million pounds sterling 1982 to 14.6 million.

Trinidad and Tobago increased its exports to the U.K. during the first six months of this year by 4.3 million pounds sterling. Sales moved from 33 million pounds sterling in 1982 to 37.3 million pounds sterling in 1983.

Trinidad and Tobago imports from the U.K. during 1983 first half stood at 71.6 million pounds sterling compared to 71.6 million last year's first half.

Belize exported 4.9 million pound sterling to the U.K. during the six month period last year compared to sales of 4.8 million pounds sterling this year, while imports dropped to 3.9 million pounds sterling this year from 5.6 million last year.

Exports from Guyana in 1983 were valued at 17.4 million pounds sterling, compared to 195 million last year's first half and imports 6.9 million pounds sterling, compared to 8.2 million in 1982.

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN TEACHERS' ACTION--Castries, St Lucia, Saturday (CANA)--The Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT), at its 21st biennial conference here last weekend, decided to link up with the West Indies Group of Universities Teachers (WIGUT) in future representation on the proposed restructuring of the University of the West Indies (UWI), a CUT release said. The release, issued by CUT President, St Lucian Alfred Jean-Baptiste, said the regional teachers' organisation was not opposed in principle to the reorganisation of the UWI, but it had "grave misgivings" when such a step seemed to lead to "too great a political involvement" in the university's routine affairs. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 4 Sep 83 p 3]

CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION PROBLEMS--The Barbados-based Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) is facing financial difficulties and is owed \$118 000 by five member countries. Executive director Ms Jill Shepherd disclosed this on Tuesday at a Press briefing at their Garrison headquarters. Commenting on their recently held annual general meeting in Jamaica, she said: "Our financial position at the moment is that we are owed about BD\$118 000 by those governments which have not yet paid up. "The situation is not very good but I think we will survive. We always seem to survive." She said that what was needed was to place some emphasis on fund raising, stating that the CCA needed the services of a "professional fund raiser." During the discussions, delegates examined a number of urgent environmental problems, such as coastal erosion, the protection of coral reefs and mangroves, and the need for detailed inventories of the architectural heritage. The Barbados delegation also briefed the meeting on the situation with beach erosion here, and spoke of measures being undertaken to curb this. Ms Shepherd said that much of the information being gathered in Barbados should be of great value to other CCA member countries. Barbados has also been given the undertaking to host next year's annual general meeting of the CCA. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Sep 83 p 10]

GRENADA PRODUCTS IN BARBADOS--Sales of Grenada's Spice Isle products such as mango nectar in Barbadian stores are expected to get a boost with a just completed week long promotional tour of the island's larger supermarkets by two officials of the Grenada National Marketing and Importing Board. According to Judy-Lyn Prime, the Board's promotional officer, the mission has been concentrating on encouraging the sale of nectars, jams and jellies. Prime said that the team has found that over the last week customer response in the

supermarkets to samples of the Spice Isle products has been "generally good." The items have been available in Barbados' stores for over a year and a half and this promotional visit is expected to lead to a further increase in orders, Prime said. The local distributors of Spice Isle products which are made at the Agro-Industry plant at True Blue in Grenada is the firm of DaCosta's. During the visit, Mrs Prime was accompanied by William Noel, a sales supervisor at the Board. The team leaves Barbados today for St Vincent where it will stage similar promotional activities. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 83 p 2]

QUETZAL NOT ACCEPTED IN BELIZE--The increasing trade that exists between Izabel and Punta Gorda, Belize, could be brought to a halt in the next few days owing to the absurd measures that Belize Premier George Price has put into effect refusing to accept Guatemalan currency. The weekly TOLEDO STAR, managed by political leader Alejandro Vernon, reports in its 18 September edition that that measure has businessmen of the Belize district worried since they can lose their products due to the lack of Guatemalan buyers. The TOLEDO STAR adds that the port site is visited weekly by thousands of Guatemalans who arrive in search of European products. Nevertheless, it specifies, the Price government does not wish to accept the quetzal and that seriously hurts area businessmen. The weekly points out that Guatemalan tourists leave thousands of quetzals in Toledo weekly, and the customs taxes that they pay allow the entry of a considerable income to the government. It is ironic that Price does not wish to accept quetzals because the government has to buy many mechanical parts for tractors and vehicles in general, such as tires and other products in Guatemala, and for that it needs quetzals. TOLEDO STAR concludes by saying that the measure is absurd and furthers discontent between neighbors of the area. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Sep 83 p 2] 9989

ARGENTINE CREDIT LINE--The Bank of Guatemala has just signed an agreement with the Central Bank of Argentina for a \$15-million credit line. The funds will be used to finance imports of raw materials and capital assets from Argentina. The production sector will import products including heavy machinery and raw materials. [Summary] [PA061442 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 5 Oct 83]

CSO: 3248/58

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON GRENADA, CUBA QUESTIONED

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 3 Sep 83 p 4

[Text]

From time immemorial, the Honourable Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, along with other members of Parliament, have been very strong in expressing Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist sentiments. They have always supported the democratic system of Government, whereby people are allowed free press, free and fair elections along with other rights which are the hallmarks of the democratic process.

Antigua and many other states of the Caribbean are accustomed to this Westminster type system and enjoy their freedom which is guaranteed by their constitutions.

However, the activities of the ALP Government in its relationship with so-called Caricom partners who disrespect this democratic process leaves us to wonder as to what is going on.

First of all, when in 1979 Bishop overthrew Gairy in a coup d'etat, the ALP and especially the Deputy Prime Minister, reacted sharply denouncing the action and warned of serious implications. The call was made for the re-introduction of the democratic process in Grenada.

Bishop's reaction along with other bigwigs of his PRG, was to brush Antigua and others who objected to

the coup aside as being tools of Uncle Sam. Barbados was given a heavy barrage of tongue-lashing.

To date, Bishop has not changed, yet, the ALP Government has refused aid because Grenada was not given any.

In the meantime, Bishop's bed fellows the ACLM are proud to publish the world 'Bank's Report' which gives Grenada credit for its sound development programmes while Antigua goes backward. The fact is while we refuse aid to support Grenada, Bishop is getting aid from his friends who do not care about Antigua. So a democratic Government like the ALP is left out in the cold in defence of an undemocratic Grenada. Somebody is playing the traitor.

The next shocking display was at the Caricom Heads of Government meeting in Jamaica at Ocho Rios where Barbados, Jamaica, Dominica were fighting to have the rules amended so that Grenada and Guyana could return to full democracy in the interest of Caricom.

To our surprise, Antigua defended Grenada under the guise of "saving the integration movement" and so Bishop won a stirring victory; a very treacherous move indeed.

Then there is Guyana where internationally it is

known that an election is held only in formality for Burnham can never be voted out of power. Right now in spite of rich minerals and other resources Guyanese have to be running from the vicious Burnham scourge. Yet he is a bosom friend of Antigua and the rest of Caricom. What is going on.

Then to the Cuban situation. We all know that Fidel is a Communist heavily subsidised by Russia. Even our Government teaches us that.

We boycotted a Carifesta because it was held there and we lament over their undemocratic government along with their subversive activities in other lands to bring down elected governments. Not to forget their guerilla training that they offer.

Antigua and the other Caribbean states, minus Grenada, have never gained anything from Cuba. Yet, we are suddenly being taught to believe that Cuba is our Caribbean neighbour when only Bishop Fidel recognize.

Added to this, a Cuban Ambassador visited Antigua recently to hold talks with the Deputy Prime and it is alleged that offers of Cuban scholarships were accepted. But prior to that permission was refused for the landing at Coolidge for a Cubana airline craft. Somebody have to be joking.

Have there been changes in the Cuban Government to a democracy of which we have not heard?

And let us not forget the sudden entry of the Libyan connection. Grenada entertain an embassy, Dominican youths were sent to Gaddafi on scholarship and St. Lucia had to stop a group from leaving.

When consider what is presently going on in Chad how can we even think of having relationship with these people? Not to forget that our ACLM Chairman recently visited the Libyan country. All these guerilla strategists like Gaddafi and his gimmick offers of scholarships have to be resisted with all possible might.

The shocking thing is

that Grenada and Cuba, both members of non-aligned movement, never condemned Russia's cruel invasion of Afghanistan which is also a member of the non-aligned grouping. How can we therefore be friends of such so-called Caricom movement?

There is now a very dangerous situation developing in the Caribbean and Antigua more so. We have sufficient problems with the ACLM and Outlet. When we open the door to Cuba and we become bosom friends of Grenada backed by Libya and the infiltration and subversion are stepped up against Antigua, who will stop them. We have got to be careful because all leftist efforts are being made to upset capitalist countries especially those who are branded as being pro-America like Antigua.

If Antigua will now be opening its arms to Cuba, I can only draw one conclusion and that is downright betrayal. We could very well prove the laughing stock of the Caribbean.

EDITOR'S NOTE

President Nixon visited China, but he was not branded as a Communist. Nor did it affect American foreign policy. Many Caricom countries have diplomatic ties with Cuba and still remain anti-communist. Why can't Antigua do the same?

The Cuban Aircraft was

not allowed to land at Coolidge because the arrangement for Antiguan scholarships to Cuba was arranged through a political party which could only muster 1% of the votes in the last General Elections. Had this been done on a Government to Government basis in the beginning there would have been no problem.

No member of the Government has ever expressed anti-socialist sentiments. The A.L.P. is a Socialist Party. We preach Democratic Socialism.

Our Foreign Minister has always taken the position that there should be free and fair elections in Grenada. He has not changed from that position. He

has always stated his belief in Ideological Pluralism along with other members of Caricom, and as distasteful as it may seem both Bishop and Burnham have been tolerated.

In spite of the visit to China of the Prime Minister and the visit to Antigua of the Cuban Foreign Minister who was received by his counterpart here, the strong anti-communist position of the Government remains.

The pragmatic approach taken by the Deputy Prime Minister in his dealings with our Caribbean neighbours are to be applauded. We are living in a real world. Certainly there is no betrayal.

LAYOFFS CALLED INDICATIVE OF POOR STATE OF ECONOMY

St Johns OUTLET in English 12 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] A rash of lay-offs and even closures has hit the working people as the Antigua economy goes into a definite tailspin.

The indication of a serious downturn in the Antigua economy are now unmistakable and the working people are being hard hit, hit where its hurts most-- JOBS.

Antigua Appliance Industries has laid off some 70% of its staff throwing some 30 workers in the jobless breadline.

However, the Antigua Appliance acting Manager, claimed that the lay-offs were entirely due to CARICOM trade restrictions and that major trade source "Trinidad and Tobago has virtually dried up with its licensing requirements". The Trinidad license arrangements entail long delays in obtaining licenses for the importation of goods from other CARICOM partners. By this license device Trinidad is seeking to restrict its massive import bill, in the wake of the sizable decline in its Oil revenues.

Several other CARICOM territories which do a lot of their trade with Trinidad in particular have been hard hit by the Trinidad licensing policies, but their economies are not in the tailspin in which Antigua finds itself.

Other Antiguan companies hit by CARICOM trade restrictions include the locally based garment factories which do a great deal of their business with Trinidad. In particular Antigua Knitwear, which according to reliable sources has been contemplating lay-offs since July.

However, Trinidad sources claim that garment factories in Antigua brought about their own trading difficulties by exporting to Trinidad trailer loads of garments which were not produced in Antigua, but which only had labels marked "Made in Antigua" affixed here, when in fact the actual garments were made in Taiwan.

Trinidad sources, further claim that the government of Antigua had only themselves to blame for the crisis of trade since they failed to inspect garments

being exported to Trinidad to verify their sources of production and to ensure that Antiguan labour got their just due, rather than smart-alec manufacturers taking unfair advantage of CARICOM free trade provisions to the advantage of themselves, foreign workers and foreign, mainly Taiwanese and South Korean, manufacturers. A Trinidad official wondered aloud, if Antigua government officials weren't getting kick-backs to permit this unfair trading from Antigua.

Meanwhile Linton Mark which has been in business in Antigua for well over 15 years involved in maintenance and fabrication closed its doors, last month, putting all of its staff out of work, to hunt for already scarce jobs, with little prospect of finding any.

Local Company Mendes with more than 50 years operating life, hit by severe financial problems, has had to lay-off most of its old workers and Trade Union sources have confirmed that approximately 90% of Mendes old staff were retrenched.

Even Insurance Companies, in the service sector, unaffected by CARICOM restrictions have reduced staff, such as United Security Life which retrenched some 75% of its staff.

Labour Department spokespersons also confirmed that in many instances some of the lay-offs, even though for just economic reasons, are often punitive in intent and effect, as employers use the lay off to get at unionised workers, shop stewards, or vocal workers who are efficient but who stand-up for workers Rights.

Labour Department spokespersons also revealed that in most instances the labour convention of the employer discussing proposed lay-offs with the bargaining Union is often violated in Antigua. The employer lays off workers without any consultation with Trade Unions. This applies to both Unions.

The government controlled Antigua Trades and Labour Union bitterly complained publicly of "its disappointment at the way West Indies Oil decided to lay off more than 50% of its employees without notifying the Union". In a strongly worded statement the Union said "The Antigua Trades and Labour Union deplores this action". The AT&LU also called on the Bird government "to make sure that Rappaport and Company are not allowed to operate the Refinery as a Terminal". Rappaport was once close, even tight, with the Bird regime.

Meanwhile too, hotels like Half Moon Bay and Curtain Bluff which were normally opened during the slow or summer period were closed, while Buccaneer Cove relieved itself, by way of lay-off, of some 55% of its staff.

In human terms Antigua had a potential labour force of 29 thousand in 1981 with some 23 thousand people actually employed, leaving a figure 6,000 persons unemployed, or 20.5 per cent employment rate. Economists now estimate that with the significant downturn in the economy; with the labour force growing faster than the overall population growth; with the massive retrenchment; that unemployment is definitely at its highest point ever, at an estimated 32%.

The Bird government using the Big Lie technique had claimed that when it took office in 1976 unemployment was a staggering 40%. It has never revealed to the public the World Bank statistics which show in 1976 the potential labour force was 25,000 while the actual work force was 20,000 with some 5,000 people unemployed, or unemployment then being 20%. The Bird regime figure of 40% was a big lie, in fact, a double lie.

Now that there are nearly 9-10,000 people unemployed the Bird government has been hoisted on its own petard, and just as it called for the removal of the PLM government because of "economic ruin" it cannot now deny that it has created a worse crisis than the PLM in the 1971-76 period.

CSO: 3298/064

GOVERNMENT DENIES TRINIDAD CHARGES OF TRADING VIOLATIONS

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by R. A. Bascus]

[Text]

The Hon. Hugh Marshall in an interview with ABS-TV has denied the claim made by Trinidad manufacturers that garments purported to have been made in Antigua, were in fact made elsewhere outside the Caricom area.

Mr. Marshall, Minister in the Ministry of Economic Development etc. said that on a recent visit to Trinidad and Tobago he met with his counterpart in the Trinidad Government and members of the Manufacturers Association concerning the allegation that Antigua's garment which were shipped to Trinidad and Tobago were in fact made in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Mr. Marshall stated that he refuted the charges and invited the Trinidad Manufacturers to send an investigative team to Antigua and Barbuda to find out for themselves.

He also said that he could sympathise with them because many garment factories in Trinidad and

Tobago had to close their doors because of the worsening economic situation in that island. The Minister also said that the Trade Unions were putting a lot of pressure on the govt. because of the fact that many of their members were losing their jobs.

In a telephone interview I had with Mr. Tom Billing President of the Antigua and Barbuda Manufacturers Association and Director of Lolly Togs Factory he assured me that he agreed with all the Minister had said. He also deplored the fact that the Trinidad Government took the position whereby licenses were just allowed to trickle through. He said that because of this that he may be forced to pay off all his workers and close his factory.

He said that he had visited all the factories in Antigua and was satisfied that they all had the capability to meet the rules and they were stipulated when

changed in 1981. He was satisfied that all the factories complied with the rules of origin. He spent a lot of time in A.A.L. factory and was satisfied that they were operating within the rules and could only attribute the 'trickle down of licenses' to that factory to the fact that they competed with a similar factory in Trinidad which is very close to the government.

Mr. Marshall also said that a similar complaint was made against Arawak Motors some years ago and a team came down and saw for themselves that everything in that factory was done in Antigua. They had not issued a report up to now.

Meanwhile the Antigua Trades and Labour Union has made its concern for the displaced workers from these factories which are forced to close because of the action of the Trinidad Government, known to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

CSO: 3298/064

FISHING PROJECT GIVEAWAY TO U.S. FIRM CHARGED, DENIED

OUTLET Allegation

St Johns OUTLET in English 26 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] News has just reached us that the Antigua Fisheries Project, a government fishing project, is to be handed over to an American firm.

The Fisheries project operates 3 boats purchased at a cost of \$275,000 U.S. each. In violation of the original project the boats were not built in Antigua by Antiguan Shipwrights as stipulated in the project document, but were purchased in Mississippi. Antiguanians were deprived of work.

The boats from Mississippi are river boats, and as such are not suited to conditions in Antiguan waters. All of them have sprung leaks. At the moment, a fourth boat is holed up in St Thomas with major damage.

The Antigua Fisheries project financed by the Caribbean Development Bank at a cost of U.S.\$4.5 million has been a mass confusion, with an overpaid Trinidadian project office. Nevertheless it took some four years before take-off.

The hand-over of this local fishing project to an American Firm, with white American operators who are already in Antigua, shows the total lack of confidence which the Bird administration has in local shipwrights and fishing personnel.

Government Refutation

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 28 Sep 83 pp 2, 8

[Text]

In its issue of 26th August and 2nd September, 1983, under captioned "STOP PRESS FIASCO IN FISHERIES PROJECT" and a "REAL FISHY DEAL", the Outlet Newspaper stated News has just reached us that Antigua Fisheries Project, a Government fishing project is to be

handed over to an American firm. The hand-over of this local fishing project to an American firm with white American Operators who are already in Antigua, shows the total lack of confidence which the Bird Administration has in local shipwrights and fishing personnel."

The Bird regime, now that it has brought local fisheries to the brink of destruction, is handing over Antigua's vast fishing potential to an American Company, for American control of our fisheries, for American profit.'

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda makes the following statement:

- (1) Antigua Fisheries Project Limited, is jointly owned by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Food Corporation.
- (2) At no time did the Government of Antigua and Barbuda or the Board of Directors of Antigua Fisheries Limited contemplate, decided to or handed over the assets of Antigua Fisheries Limited or the Operation and management of Antigua Fisheries Limited to an American Company.
- (3) The Government of Antigua has never handed over or considered handing over Antigua's vast fishing potential to an American Company for control of our fisheries, for American profit.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda states categorically and emphatically that Antigua Fisheries Project is owned by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Caribbean Food Corporation and is managed and controlled by a local Board of Directors including a Director from the Caribbean Food Corporation and a representative from the Caribbean Development Bank.

Indeed, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda cannot sell the assets of Antigua Fisheries Limited or hand over the management and control of Antigua

Fisheries Limited to any foreign company without the prior written approval of the Caribbean Development Bank or the Caribbean Food Corporation. At no time did the Government approach these two financial institutions for such approval and these institutions gave no permission for the sale or handover of the assets of the project to any foreign company. Our detractors are free to verify these irrefutable facts, and the Government is prepared to co-operate with them by authorising the Caribbean Development Bank or Caribbean Food Corporation to release any information in their possession to the Outlet Newspaper concerning the sale of the assets and handing over of the control and management of Antigua Fisheries Project Limited to a foreign company.

As regards Outlet's allegation about "Handing over Antigua's vast fishing potential to an American Company, for American control of our fisheries, for American profit", this Government would wish to let Outlet know that the fisheries and marine resources of Antigua and Barbuda concerns our sovereignty. This Government has never and will never give up control of its sovereignty over its Fisheries Resources to any foreign company.

As an Independent Nation, we intend to and will manage our own Fisheries Resources.

Now that we have exposed the lies which were carried in the Outlet and declared our principled position in exercising our Sovereignty in controlling and managing our Fisheries Resources, we hope that our detractors will place these articles in the most fitting resting place, i.e. the garbage heap.

PREPARATIONS FOR ANNUAL ATLU CONFERENCE UNDER WAY

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 24 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

The 44th Annual delegates conference of the A.T. & L.U. opens at the Union's Headquarters - Emancipation House tomorrow and continues on Monday, September 26th & 27th. The opening address will be delivered by the President of the Union Senator William Robinson and other speakers will include the Prime Minister V.C. Bird who is expected to deliver the feature address.

All the Executive posts are challenged except that of President and General-Secretary. The President says that during the debates the Union will be asking for an increase in union dues and benefits. It is said that the Theme of the conference will be "Only workers can determine their own Destiny. We pray for the success of the deliberations."

UNION CONFERENCES ASKED TO RATIFY FORMATION OF TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Correspondence from the Recording Secretary of the Antigua & Barbuda Trade Union Congress in Formation (T.U.C.) to all participating unions and organizations to allow their annual conferences and conventions to discuss and possibly ratify their Executives' commitment to participate in the T.U.C.

At the first meeting of the T.U.C. information, held at the Villa School on March 31st 1983, representatives of the following organizations were present - The St. Johns Taxi Association (S.T.A), The National Taxi Association (N.T.A) The fishermen's Association (F.A) The Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers (A.B.U.T.) the Antigua & Barbuda Public Service Association (A.B.P.S.A.) The Antigua Workers Union (A.W.U) and The Antigua & Barbuda Trades & Labour Union (A.B.T.L.U)

All delegates present expressed the urgent need for workers in this country to bind themselves

meaningfully together in order to combat the employers organizations who are exploiting them to the 'fullest' because of acute economic condition which exists in the world today.

Representing the A.B.T.L.U. were Comrades William Robinson, President, B.T. Carrott, 1st Vice President, Joshua Samuel, Industrial Officer E. Dowdy Executive Member and R. Bascus Gen. Sec. Comrades Carrott and Robinson, two of the most experienced Trade Unionists present at that meeting informed the delegates that employers were now even further uniting themselves in order to exploit workers and it was therefore necessary for the workers themselves to also unite under the umbrella of a T.U.C. in order to combat these forces. The A.W.U. conference was held on Sunday and Monday 17th & 19th Sept. The A & B.T.L.U. will hold its 44th conference on Sun and Mon. 25th and 26th Sept. 1983.

Below is a copy of the circular from the sec. of the T.U.C. in formation to the Organizations.

RATIFICATION OF THE TUC IDEA

At the sixth meeting of workers' organisations to form the Antigua & Barbuda Trade Union Congress, held on Thursday 15th September, 1983, it was decided to write all the organisations concerned on the above subject.

It was the view of the meeting that all Unions/Organisations concerned should discuss the idea of the formation of a Trade Union Congress at their upcoming conference or conventions, or to convene a special convention if the Annual Convention is a long way off. This view is based on the opinions expressed at the very first meeting of workers' organisations held on 31st March, 1983. At that time all the representatives of unions admitted that there was a need for a TUC and that they were committed to its formation, subject to ratification by their membership. At this meeting - 31st March 1983 - there were high level representatives from:

The Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU)
The Antigua Workers' Union (AWU), The Antigua & Barbuda Public

Service Association (ABPSA), The Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), The Fishermen's Association (FA) The National Taxi Association (NTA), The St. John's Taxi Association Union (STAU).

I therefore take this opportunity to suggest that the ratification of the Union leadership's position on the TUC be placed as an agenda item at your upcoming Conference or Convention. This is a great opportunity to involve the membership of your union in the process of forging working class unity in the country and getting their endorsement of future activities aimed at forming a Trade Union Congress in Antigua & Barbuda.

Knowing your leadership's firm resolve to get a Trade Union Congress formed, I am confident that you will take appropriate steps at your upcoming Conference or Convention to get this commitment transferred to, amplified or ratified by your membership.

Towards Working
Class Unity.

Fraternally
Elloy de Freitas

Recording Secretary.

BRIEFS

UNION ISSUES--true to his word, the Minister of Finance continues to instruct the Treasury to pay the long over due back pay to the Non-Established workers in Antigua and Barbuda. At a meeting held between the A.T.L.U and official from the Ministry of Finance during early July, the Hon. Minister promised that the Treasury would commence disbursing 'back-pay' cheques as from the middle of August 1983 and would extend over a period of 4 to 6 weeks. Employees at P.W.D, Health Centre and the Ministry of Finance and Agriculture have already been paid. The smaller sections are to follow. Over \$275,000.00 have already been paid out. The Union is becoming very concerned over the fact that many heads and subheads of govt. Departments have not yet received a copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the govt. of Antigua and Barbuda and the Antigua Trades and Labour Union on behalf of Govt. Non-Established workers. As a result of this the workers have not been enjoying all the benefits negotiated on their behalf. The Union intends to take up this matter with the relevant authorities in order to ensure that copies of the Agreement are distributed to every Govt. department in Antigua and Barbuda. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKING VOICE in English 3 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO; 3298/065

OPPOSITION SENATOR, IN BERMUDA, DISCUSSES FNM SITUATION

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Sep 83 p 15

[Text]

Opposition parties must learn that by attacking the Government in power their chances of election victories diminish. That is one lesson the Opposition in the Bahamas, the Free National Movement, has discovered, said the Senate leader of the FNM, Senator J. Henry Bostwick, who was in Bermuda for a few days last week.

"You must come up with ideas of your own and put them to the people," said Senator Bostwick who added: "The disadvantage to that is that the Government may steal your ideas — but the people will know where those ideas came from. They (the voters) are a lot smarter than anyone thinks. I know the FNM, like many Opposition parties around the world, has spent too much time in just attacking the policies of the Government." In this case the Government of the Bahamas is the Progressive Liberal Party.

Comparing Bermuda's political parties to the Bahamas, Mr. Bostwick said that the FNM is on similar ground to the United Bermuda Party while the Progressive Liberal Party can be likened to the Progressive Labour Party in Bermuda.

Mr. Bostwick, who runs a criminal law firm with his wife, Janet, is one of four opposition members in the 16 seat Senate. He previously was the FNM leader in the House of Assembly, before he lost his seat in the 1982 election. Now the PLP has a 32 to 10 majority in the House of Assembly but, Senator Bostwick said: "A lot of those seats were won only by a very slim majority — some of them by a handful of votes."

It has been 10 years since the Bahamas went independent. Mr. Bostwick said Independence "went very smoothly". He said: "Everyone knew Independence was definitely going to come — there was virtually no opposition to it by any Bahamian patriot. The only question was which party was going to bring the country into Independence. When Independence did come, there were, unbelievably, no hitches at all."

When asked what economic effects Independence had on the Bahamas, Senator Bostwick said: "Surprisingly little. It is just a matter of reorganisation. And Britain was also very generous in allowing their facilities overseas to be used by us. Regarding defence, one has to realise just how small and insignificant a country like the Bahamas or, for that matter, Bermuda is."

But he said that even with independence one is not totally free. "You are independent but never free of the superpower in your area. That is a fact that will not change," he said.

He said that there was, however, a difference in being a friend of a superpower — in the Bahamas case the United States — and being in the "back pocket" of that superpower. "Jamaica," he said, "is in the back pocket of the United States now. Superpowers always tend to look upon you as a newly acquired possession rather than friend. And that is something one has to watch out for."

The governing PLP in the Bahamas, who supported the unions years ago, has now abandoned them, said Mr. Bos-

twick. "The real conflict between the unions and Government is not so much with the independent trade unions but with the public service unions," he said, adding that before he left the teachers were ready to go out on strike. "Government only seems to pay attention to the unions just before an election — they then abandon them," he added.

But the Bahamas does not have many strikes for the simple reason of high unemployment, said Senator Bostwick. "We have a serious problem over unemployment — I think that the figure stands at about 20 percent. In that kind of situation the workers are wary of going out on strike because it may mean the loss of their jobs." The Bahamas however, does have unemployment benefits, he added.

The Bahamas also differs from Bermuda by allowing casinos to operate. But, Senator Bostwick said, the casinos are controlled to an extent. "No Bahamian can gamble at the casinos. That law has prevented a lot of the social ills associated with casinos spreading into the Bahamas society. There is that barrier. And we have the obvious financial benefits by allowing casinos to operate."

Drugs is one of the main problems the Bahamas faces today, said the 44-year-old politician. "But," he said, "it is in the terms of the Bahamas being used as a stopping off point. By our geography the Bahamas is in the middle between the drug producing countries and the consumers. We do not have that bad a drug problem within our country, but there are serious problems with people using our islands as a place to transfer drugs."

CSO: 3298/053

SWAN: SOUNDS WARNING, LISTS MAJOR ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

The Premier issued strong warnings yesterday on what he called "a false sense of security about our continued prosperity".

Outdated hotels were blasted by the Hon. John Swan as he warned that tourists were refusing to return to Bermuda to pay top-notch prices at low-quality properties.

He also said: "We cannot tolerate one group or one institution acting without regard to the national interest."

The Premier warned:

- "While we have yet to experience adversity our economy is not growing. In fact, Bermuda's economy can be described as standing still.

- "Today we are faced with the prospect of a shrinking in our foreign exchange earnings.

- "The American tourist can easily get an inexpensive holiday elsewhere.

- "We must continue to exercise caution. The recovery has still not occurred and we are in for some very stiff competition.

- When prices increase to the extent that they have, one has to expect the tourist to think twice before deciding to come to Bermuda.

- "We now have to consider if we can afford to continue to grant wage increases which are out of line with the cost of living. It is my view that this economy cannot, and must not, subsidise the cost of living too high or beyond our actual means.

Mr. Swan said that

although a 2 percent increase in tourists this year, compared to 1982, indicated an economic recovery in the United States, the recovery itself had not yet arrived. Bermuda faced increasingly stiff competition from other tourists destinations, particularly because of the strength of the US dollar against other currencies.

But even with a strong dollar, tourists were demanding value for money. Tourists could be expected to think twice before deciding to go to Bermuda, one of the most expensive holiday destinations.

"As our costs have increased there are questions about our reputation for quality," Mr. Swan told a meeting of Hamilton Lions.

"As long as we preserve quality I believe we can come to grips with cost considerations. There has been, and continues to be, a place for quality in the market place.

"However, Bermuda must be careful about its reputation for quality. I need not

remind you that there are indicators of those questions present in our Country. I talk not only of quality in terms of attitude in service, but also in physical plant.

"Quite frankly, the Minister of Tourism and I are very concerned about the state of physical accommodations in some institutions in our Country.

"Indeed, just as some business clients are pulling out of Bermuda for reasons of unreasonable rent, tourists refuse to return to outdated hotels.

"The notion of quality of service includes the attitude of the individual as well as the physical plant. Indeed, poor attitudes may well be a function of poor working conditions."

The Premier did not name the specific hotels he was criticising in his speech, which was delivered at the Bermudiana Hotel.

He said he felt Bermudians may have lulled themselves into a false sense of security about the Island's continued prosperity, which

had been based on good service and giving the client his money's worth. Bermudians had been able to escape the worst effects of economic crises overseas by raising the cost of services.

The latter half of the 1970s had been a period of rapid economic growth, but now the economy — which depended on the amount of foreign money spent in Bermuda — was at a standstill.

Last year there had been a decline in hotel occupancy levels and to compensate, prices had been increased, along with a greater desire to fill up hotels.

"However, if in that quest for higher occupancy levels we attract tourists who fail to spend money, then we have not progressed one iota and have done nothing but reduce our economic yield," said Mr. Swan.

"We cannot claim to have had a successful year if we welcome to our shores large numbers of visitors and fail to increase our foreign exchange earnings.

"The best performance of individual hotels will not benefit the national interest if our visitor spending continues to decline.

"The lesson to be learned then is not to pray to the false god of occupancy at any cost."

The text of the Premier's speech follows:

During the last election campaign, I talked repeatedly of the need to exercise some caution about our economic security. In particular, I mentioned that we had not yet felt the effects of the North American recession, and that we had to launch the domestic efforts necessary to safeguard us from harm. I want to return to that theme again today, because I sense complacency, and false solutions being advocated. There is an attitude which works to undermine the measures necessary for our continued well being.

The make-up of the Bermudian economy is particularly fragile. It is built on the notion of service, and, especially, quality in service. Tourism and international business are both service industries. Our prosperity was, and is, based on the premise that we give good service and the client gets his money's worth.

Bermudians were able to stay ahead of inflation and build up domestic capital to a large extent by raising the cost of services. By raising the cost of hotel rooms, legal services or management, we were able to escape many of the effects of previous economic crises overseas.

In the latter half of the 1970s, our economy grew at an annual average of 4%. In the same time period, domestic capital accumulated at 13% per annum. Tourist expenditure grew by 5% each year and international company spending increased by 8% annually. The most startling realisation was that incomes grew during that period, in real terms, by 20%. That means that wages stayed ahead of the cost of living by 20%. This was a remarkable achievement in a period of spiralling oil prices and inflation.

That, I am afraid, is the end of the very good news. Since 1981, we have had less good news. Tourism and international business, which generate export earnings, showed little growth. Indeed, in 1981 Bermuda experienced a shrinking of 6% in real output. While we have yet to experience adversity, our economy is not growing. In fact, Bermuda's economy can be described as standing still.

In some senses we cannot avoid some impact of adverse overseas economic conditions. The availability of disposable incomes in North America does have an impact on the number of visitors we can expect. Interest

rates and regulations overseas, particularly in North America, have brought business to Bermuda. A very small percentage of business comes to us because of tax considerations. The majority is attracted, as I said before, by our free market economy and lack of regulations. The tourist and the international business client saw Bermuda as a preferred place to visit or in which to set up business.

Cost was not a criterion as long as it was off-set by quality of service and the lack of an attractive alternative. The type of visitors we attracted, as tourist or corporate clients, were those who contributed substantially to our economic growth. Revenue from these sources received by local business, is spent to purchase goods, services, pay salaries and rent, and to form capital.

This, in turn, is spent by other businesses and wage earners. The result is that each dollar spent by a visitor generates more than one dollar in household income. The public sector also benefits from taxes and duties levied on hotel occupancy and goods purchased. The economy is dependent on the volume of foreign money spent in Bermuda.

The upward economic and social mobility which has characterised Bermuda, results from the amount of money brought into the Country as export earnings. The houses built, the Government projects completed, and the high level of social amenity, is all a result of our foreign exchange earnings.

Today we are faced with the prospect of a shrinking in our foreign exchange earnings. Since 1981, as a result of inflation, we have witnessed a decline in real terms in visitor expenditure in Bermuda. The disturbances of that year, combined with some very poor economic conditions overseas, made for a dismal overall performance.

To the extent that there was recovery in 1962, it was a relatively modest one. Last year we saw a decline in occupancy levels. In simple terms, the fewer tourists we have, the lower the amount of our foreign exchange earnings. By increasing the cost of services, we have avoided this problem. Earlier on I talked of looking for solutions in places where we want to find solutions, as opposed to where we need to find solution. The prospect of lower occupancy levels and intensified competition has brought with it a greater desire to fill up hotels. However, if in that quest for higher occupancy levels we attract tourists who fail to spend money, then we have not progressed one iota, and have done nothing but reduce our economic yield. We cannot claim to have had a successful year if we welcome to our shores large numbers of visitors, and fail to increase our foreign exchange earnings. The best performance of individual hotels will not benefit the national interest if our visitor spending continues to decline. The lesson to be learned then is not to pray to the false god of occupancy at any cost.

Indeed, there are signs of an economic recovery in North America. I should add here that there is a danger of higher interest rates bringing recovery to a halt. However, we would hope that prudent fiscal policies overseas will spur on that recovery, and not bring it to a halt.

Indeed, a 2% net growth in arrivals in the first half of this year is indicative of a recovery, as is the good performance in July. I am happy that airline visitor arrivals have shown a 7.8% growth. Yet, we must continue to exercise caution. The recovery has still not occurred and we are in for some very stiff competition.

The very strength of the United States dollar has

the potential of working against our best interest. A strong dollar means very favourable exchange rates against other currencies. With the British pound, the French franc, and even the Mexican peso so low against the dollar, the American tourist can easily get an inexpensive holiday elsewhere.

The U.S. travel data centre reports a 12% increase in travel this year and has recorded a big surge in overseas travel. This demand for travel, in particular to Europe, has already affected us. There have been some indications of "softness" in our New England markets as a result of European and Caribbean bargain vacations. With an estimated 4.2 million Americans going to Europe, we can expect to feel some impact. Competition is tough, and is getting tougher daily, and, to be sure, aggressive marketing from other destinations is one aspect of competition. Yet there are other aspects of competition which we must bear in mind and not try to ignore in the hopes of magical solutions.

The first has to do with cost. The consumers in North America have changed in that they have become comparison shoppers. They have begun to ask rational questions about value for money. The basic question they are asking is, "Am I getting value for my dollar?" They do not mind spending money, as long as they are receiving value for money.

The image of the free-spending tourist has gone. With regard to Bermuda, which is among the more expensive destinations, they are asking themselves if it is really worth the vast expense of coming home. Finally, cost as criterion for visiting our shores, has begun to play an important role. When prices increase to the extent that they have, one has to expect the tourist

to think twice before deciding to come to Bermuda.

As I said before, an alternative destination or base of business, quality, and cost considerations are the clear and present danger. The fact that we have put ourselves at the very top of the expensive vacation and business centres could now work against us. In truth, if we raise our prices any more, we may indeed experience problems. As a famous economist said many years ago, inflationary pressure could indeed destroy the free-market. As our costs have increased, there are questions about our reputation for quality.

As long as we preserve quality, I believe we can come to grips with cost considerations. There has been, and continues to be, a place for quality in the market place. However, Bermuda must be careful about its reputation for quality. I need not remind you that there are indicators of those questions present in our Country. I talk not only of quality in terms of attitude in service, but also in physical plant.

Quite frankly, the Minister of Tourism and I are very concerned about the state of physical accommodations in some institutions in our Country. Indeed, just as some business clients are pulling out of Bermuda for reasons of unreasonable rent, tourists refuse to return to out-dated hotels. The notion of quality of service includes the attitude of the individual as well as the physical plant. Indeed, poor attitudes may well be a function of poor working conditions.

By the same token, we now have to consider if we can afford to continue to grant wage increases which are out of line with the cost of living. It is my view that this economy cannot, and must not, subsidise the cost of living too high or beyond our actual means.

We must be careful not to fuel the rate of inflation. It would be irresponsible to unreasonably raise the cost of a vacation or the cost of doing business in Bermuda. Such rising cost could pose a threat to the competitiveness of Bermuda. Unless we are mindful of that, we could be in economic trouble. The fact that we may have a better year this year than in 1982 must not mean that we can throw caution to the winds. Prudence will have to rule the day. This prudence must apply equally to all sectors of our economy. It will take management and labour to work together in a responsible manner to ensure that Bermuda remains economically secure.

The philosophy of the Government is to encourage the highest possible levels of participation in our democratic process. To invite participation is to see the individual as having rights and duties. The very strength of a participatory democracy is that it calls

upon each individual to play his or her part in enhancing the national interest. It invokes not only the rights of the individual, but also reminds him or her that he or she has obligations to the collective endeavour. It is my belief that the smallness of our Island, and the fragile nature upon which our well-being is based, dictates that we work together to build a better Bermuda.

We cannot tolerate one group or one institution acting without regard to the national interest. Bermuda is a just society, which will not bear the strain of sectarian interest. My Government has the final responsibility for the economic, social and political stability of Bermuda today, tomorrow, and well into the future. We are therefore sounding this warning in a spirit of responsibility. Not to tell you of the potential risk would be irresponsible. We ask that the national interest become the primary consideration in determining not only your priorities, but also your actions.

GOVERNMENT HIT FOR ROLE IN 'EXCESSIVE' WAGE SETTLEMENTS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] The Development Applications Board yesterday expressed concern that the current surge of housing development may result in more dwelling units than required at the expense of the Island's most prized possession — open space.

Members of the board were also worried that once present housing requirements were met, long term housing projects such as Boaz Island and Middletown might be abandoned.

The comments were made in a report on the Housing Corporation application to construct 24 housing units at the controversial Hermitage Road site in Devonshire.

The application was approved late last month, but the minutes of the meeting at which the proposal was discussed were not released until yesterday.

"The DAB's greatest fear was that, given the Housing Corporation's present plans to develop existing open space, and the number of subdivisions of open space land occurring every year, the housing problem may soon appear to be solved at the expense of one of Bermuda's most precious possession — open space," said the DAB.

"Such a short term solution could send the supply of housing units surging ahead of demand, creating the appearance that the 'crisis' was over and causing Government to relent upon, or delay, such major projects such as Boaz Island and Middletown which could provide long term answers to the problem."

The Board recommended that maximum use be made of land which has already been subdivided, housing units which can be rehabilitated, housing units currently withheld from the market, and large scale projects such as Boaz Island.

"Each of these could contribute to a solution to the housing problem without requiring the loss of further space," said the DAB.

During the meeting member of the board also pointed out that:

- A number of the approximately 250 subdivided lots approved by the Board have not being developed. Further, there is no inducement for owners to develop subdivided vacant lots.

- Board members suspect a number of rental units are being withheld from the market due to the "popular belief" that rent control makes it impossible to evict undesirable tenants.

- There is a tendency for landlords to prefer to use rental units for tourist accommodation rather than for rental by long term residents of Bermuda.

- There are a large number of substandard housing units that could be rehabilitated and put on the market.

Chairman of the Housing Corporation Mr. David Lines said during the hearing that it appeared there were about 1,100 people in need of housing — 70 per cent of which were described as being in "extremely serious" need.

■ There are a number of rental units owned by non-Bermudians which were not being made available because of the hesitancy on the part of non-Bermudians which may result from Government regulations.

To satisfy current needs, 520 housing units are needed. The Housing Corporation intends to build 300 new units and rehabilitate 200 units. Permission for 143 new units has already been obtained.

In approving the

Hermitage Road development, the Board said the project was well below the maximum number of units which could be constructed in a high density area.

"The board felt that the development could be accommodated in the Hermitage Road location in a fairly unobtrusive manner," said the DAB minutes.

Board members also felt it was "incumbent upon them" to consider favourably the application in light of the Housing Corporation's overall plans and policies.

CSO: 3298/054

LAND, HOUSING POLICIES IN SPOTLIGHT AS POLITICAL ISSUES

Fears for Open Space

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Bank of Bermuda yesterday warned against the effects of inflationary wage settlements and accused Government of being one of the biggest culprits in awarding excessive pay rises.

In a wide-ranging annual report which announced increased profits of \$19.7 million (see **Business Week** story on page 15), bank chief, Mr. Donald Lines, predicted that Bermuda could soon be spending more than it earns.

The report praised Finance Minister, the Hon. David Gibbons, for his handling of the economy but was sharply critical of Government's pay policies.

Wrote Mr. Lines: "We cannot take prosperity for granted."

"While growth in gross domestic product (GDP) is generally considered desirable . . . in our case, because of full employment, it might also be considered a reflection of inflationary wage settlements which could lead to a very real

foreign exchange balance of payments problem.

"Unfortunately, there are some signs this is happening, for Government has tended to lead the private sector in generous wage settlements which have had a ripple effect throughout the community."

The bank chief argued that such settlements "merely inflate GDP without any real increase in productivity".

And he added: "If this pattern is allowed to continue, we could find ourselves facing serious difficulties. An indication of this fact is that over the past three years, Bermuda's balance of payments surpluses have consistently declined."

He warned that if foreign exchange earnings do not keep pace with increases in GDP "we will soon learn, like many other islands, the effects of spending amounts in excess of our real income".

Mr. Lines went on to point out that Bermuda was fortunate to have escaped the effects of recession.

"The only real local issue," he wrote, "is the much-publicised claim that there is insufficient housing and rents are too high."

The banker refuted popularly held notions on housing in Bermuda, claiming that rents "in terms of cost of building and maintenance . . . are severely depressed because of rent control".

And he claimed that the "real" housing problem on the Island stems from high standards of living which have encouraged young Bermudians to acquire their own homes, landlords to withdraw rental units to avoid controls and property owners to seek a higher return by renting to tourists.

Added to this, are tenants' "unrealistic expectations" and "environmental and legal impediments" which have limited the development of apartment buildings in Hamilton.

PLP Housing Survey

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

Government yesterday reacted strongly to the Development Applications Board's warning that the Island might soon have more homes than it needs at the expense of open space.

The Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Housing assured those in desperate need of housing — some of whom he said were sleeping in cars — that Government was committed to solving the Island's housing crisis.

"I wish that the DAB and anyone who is interested in open spaces would read the White Paper on Housing," said Mr Edness. "All the comments the DAB made were in that paper. It is not our intention to destroy the open spaces. But at the same time we have to build houses.

"It's all very well for the DAB to make those comments — but they don't have the job of looking after people's housing needs. We do."

Mr. Edness' comments came on the heels of the De-

velopment Applications Board (DAB) decision to allow the construction of 24 housing units by the Housing Corporation at the controversial Hermitage Road site in Devonshire.

In granting permission, the DAB also warned last week that the current surge of housing development may result in the construction of more homes than required, at the expense of the Island's most prized possession — open space.

"I wish to allay the fears of those families who have an urgent need for housing — some of whom have called me over the weekend — that the Housing Corporation will, in no way, lessen its efforts to adequately house them as soon as possible," said Mr. Edness.

"I am sure that the DAB would not want the Housing Corporation or Government to turn their backs on these people's urgent needs because of the possibility that the current housing development may result in more dwelling units than required at the expense of open space.

"The Housing Corporation is very much aware of the potential of this eventuality, and tries, as it endeavours to accommodate families in

need, to measure potential needs against supply."

Mr. Edness added that the Housing Corporation currently had 1,500 applications for apartments. Of that number, two-thirds are under eviction notice.

"A large proportion of these families have already been evicted with many families now split up, children dispersed, and in some cases, sleeping in cars and

the like," said Mr. Edness.

In allowing the Hermitage Road development — which was bitterly opposed by a group of neighbours — the DAB suggested that maximum use be made of existing developments and development rights.

The DAB also said that 250 subdivisions throughout the Island had been allowed by the Board, many of which had never been developed. It also urged that run down

houses be rehabilitated, apartments not on the market be utilised, and that large scale developments like Boaz Island get underway.

But Mr. Edness pointed out that it took more than a year to process a sub-standard home so that it can be legally developed by Government. And he added that projects such as Boaz Island take five years from inception to when they first start helping people.

Government Reassurances

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party is to begin publicising cases of people with serious housing problems in hopes of obtaining suitable accommodation for them.

The decision was taken in response to calls received on Wednesday, the second eve-

ning of the PLP's week-long telephone housing survey.

Said PLP chairman Mr. Alex Scott: "Some folks are very hard pressed. They need immediate relief." With the permission of the callers most in need, advertisements will be placed in the media along

with rents they were able to afford.

The survey has so far drawn calls from about 80 people, 40 each night. On the basis of Tuesday's calls, Mr. Scott said "some people are still using outhouses and buckets".

On Wednesday, the survey received a call from a family of five who were living in a barn with no inside toilet. Other families had been split up because of housing problems, said Mr. Scott. "Mothers cannot live with fathers, who cannot live with children. They just want to get back together. There are those who live in unbelievable conditions, who cannot get their landlords to do anything about it.

"Some are approaching us as a last resort," Mr. Scott said.

The survey will last until September 13. People with housing problems are asked to telephone the survey at the following numbers: 2-2284, 2-1680, 2-8819 or 22885 between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

POLICE SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM UK IN FIGHTING CRIME WAVE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The Bermuda Police Service has turned to the British Government for help in fighting an increasing crime trend, it was announced yesterday.

Police Commissioner Mr. Frederick Bean issued a statement yesterday announcing that he had requested the assistance of the UK Overseas Police Advisor presently attached to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Mr. Bean added he had over recent weeks discussed with the Governor, Viscount Dunrossil, and Premier the Hon. John Swan "his deep concern at the escalation of the volume of criminal traffic and other offences".

"Such change in a small society, which itself demands law and order, necessarily increases the demands on a Police Service which is required to serve the community as well as provide law enforcement," said Mr. Bean.

His announcement comes at a time when the integrity of the narcotics section of the Police is being attacked in the Island's courts. The statement was also made in the middle of one of the worst years for road traffic fatalities.

The Island's fifteenth fatality for the year was recorded last week when a 23-year-old Sandys Parish man died following a crash in which two others involved in the accident left the scene without waiting for Police to arrive.

A good number of those who have died on Bermuda's roads this year have been young people. A Supreme Court trial jury last month convicted a 24-year-old man for causing the death of a 26-year-old woman by careless driving. He was jailed for one year.

"The Commissioner has requested and His Excellency the Governor and the Premier have agreed, that the Overseas Police Advisor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office be asked to make an early visit to Bermuda," said Mr. Bean.

"The purpose of the visit will be to conduct a review, and to offer professional advice on the optimum means by which the Bermuda Police Service can continue to serve the community as well as provide effective law enforcement." Mr. Bean declined to answer questions on his announcement.

LABOUR DAY GATHERING HEARS PLP BLAST AT SWAN, UBP

Mrs Evans' Charges

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Sep 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Opposition leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans yesterday called on Bermudians not to "make a mockery" of Labour Day.

Mrs. Browne Evans told an enthusiastic crowd of more than 2,000 at Bernard Park yesterday they should honour the Island's labour movement by "speaking words that are true, words that come from the heart".

"Today is a day that the workers fought against all odds to get. If you link arms in brotherhood and make it a mockery, it is nothing. You waste my sweat if you behave in that manner," she said.

The Opposition leader lashed out at Premier the Hon. John Swan, the first speaker at yesterday's gathering, for his claim that Bermudians must "all come together as a people".

"Let no man tell you with sophistry that it is a day that we come together," she said.

Mrs. Browne Evans, wearing a Solidarity T-shirt and sipping a beer as a concession to the stifling heat,

motioned to the largely black crowd.

"We are not together. Look around you and you will see why we are not together, and we will never be together when you talk lies and listen to them."

She also slammed the Premier for not joining the Labour Day march, which began at BIU headquarters earlier in the day.

"I had no previous engagements, because I knew Labour Day was coming and I kept it free so I could march with you," she told the cheering throng.

Mr. Swan, in his address, said he felt "very proud" of the spirit he saw in those gathered to celebrate Bermuda's second Labour Day.

"I was lifted up and reminded that all people — whether they are here today or not — are the labourers in our country. We should not make a distinction between whether they are management or workers or whether they are people seeking work. We should all help each other."

The Premier, speaking over the determined efforts of a few hecklers, said he hoped next year to see the entire Bernard Park area filled to capacity and "representing the people from all our land".

"If we have three thousand people here today, next year we will have five thousand or ten thousand or thirty thousand," he said.

Meanwhile Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, said he had only one complaint about the day's events — the absence of white Bermudians.

"I had hoped that John

(Swan) and Jack (Sir John Sharpe) would have brought them along when they came on the march," he said.

Mr. Wade, who spent the majority of his Labour Day labouring in a beer stall, said he hoped Mr. Swan and Sir John would get moving earlier next year — and bring "the other half of the community" along with them.

PLP Statement

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan was last night accused of making "irresponsible and racially divisive" comments about the Labour Day celebrations.

The criticism was fired in a statement issued by the Progressive Labour Party following remarks by the

Premier on reasons for the small number of whites attending the Labour Day festivities.

"One would like to think that Mr. Swan's comments are merely being made in a fit of pique, but as Premier he cannot be allowed to offer such distortions," the PLP

said.

The Labour Day organising committee went to "great lengths" to encourage whites to participate.

"To illustrate the depth and seriousness of the problem, Bermudians must only ask why attendance at Heritage Day celebrations at the National Stadium are also overwhelmingly black, with relatively few whites in attendance."

The Teen Conference was also "overwhelmingly black" while Cup Match attracted "pitifully few whites" by comparison to their total numbers.

"The truth of the matter is that black and white Bermudians are still divided, in the churches they attend, the clubs they attend and the sports they participate in.

"...Such a situation is a tragedy for all of Bermuda and by covering up the problem and offering feeble excuses on behalf of the absent, Mr. Swan himself

continues to be part of the problem, rather than part of the solution."

If the Premier was sincere, then he should have led his own United Bermuda Party members in the march under their own banner, said the statement.

The PLP also leapt to the defence of ZFB news announcer Dave Burchell who is believed to have been reprimanded for his personal editorial on Labour Day on Monday night's newscast.

"It cannot escape notice that Mr. Burchell, a Bermudian, was being reprimanded by a foreigner only recently arrived in Bermuda — Bermuda Broadcasting general manager Mr. Michael Tindall — and that the managing director of BBC is a UBP Cabinet Minister."

It was obvious that Mr. Burchell was disturbed by the lack of whites at the Labour Day celebrations and thus called for black and white workers to unite, continued the statement.

Criticism of Both Parties

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

One of the organisers of this month's Labour Day celebrations lashed out last night at politicians for spoiling the big event with their acrid exchanges.

Mr. John Payne, secretary of the joint Labour Day committee which supervised the event, suggested that Progressive Labour Party and United Bermuda Party politicians should either "shut up" or not be invited to participate.

"I simply feel as a member of the committee that its aims of keeping Labour Day non-political and an occasion for all workers, whatever colour or creed, were not met," Mr. Payne said.

"Both the political parties were at fault by issuing political rhetoric when it was not needed."

Speeches were made by Premier the Hon. John Swan, Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans and Mr. Frederick Wade, PLP MP, during the Labour Day celebrations.

Several remarks were made about the absence of white workers from the march and celebrations, and the exchanges continued afterwards when Mr. Swan said he had tried to steer clear of rhetoric unlike, he went on, PLP members.

But Mr. Payne said yesterday both sides had undermined what he considered the true intent of Labour Day -- to unite workers all over the world in paying homage to the theme of labour.

"I'm not interested in anyone's political motives,"

Mr. Payne said.

"If a particular group of people seem intent on lessening the impact of that message, then either they should not be invited or should be invited to shut up."

"I suppose some political rhetoric was to be expected but first and foremost was the aim of inviting all the workers of Bermuda irrespective of anyone's political motives."

Last night PLP Senator David Allen, spokesman for the joint Labour Day committee, commented: "The committee held its regular meeting tonight -- we have been meeting on Fridays at 5.15 p.m. for several weeks now -- and decided that the media should be informed that Mr. Payne's statement was not made on behalf of the committee and his views are his own and not those of the committee."

CSO: 3298/055

BRIEFS

PLP MONTHLY TV SHOW--The Progressive Labour Party is to launch a monthly television series called PLP Magazine, beginning next Wednesday on ZEM television at 7.40 P.M. Topic of the first programme is "Labour Day: Where did it come from? Where is it Going?" Guests will include Mr. John Payne, president of the Bermuda Public Services Association, Mr. Ottiwell Simmons, president of the Bermuda Industrial Union, and Mr. Frederick Wage, Shadow Minister of Home Affairs. Senator Jennifer Smith will moderate. According to a PLP press release, the new series will focus on issues and concerns of Bermudians through discussion by programme guests, including those who are not PLP members. The 30-minute programmes will be aired on the last Wednesday of each month. Party activities will also be publicised in the programme, which includes a commentary piece. Viewers' letters will be read during the closing minutes of PLP Magazine in a section called "Response". The press release said: "The new PLP programme is part of the party's renewed thrust towards addressing issues of major concern to all Bermudians." [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Aug 83 p 2]

TOUR SHIP POLLUTION FINE--Legislation passed by Parliament to clamp down on smoke pollution by cruise ships fell heavily upon local agents for the Volendam in Magistrates' Court yesterday. They were fined \$9,000 for the ship's emissions of soot over St. George's earlier this year. The amendment, entitled The Marine Board Amendment Act 1983, was approved in March. It increased the maximum penalty for soot emission from \$480 to \$10,000. In passing sentence, Senior Magistrate the Wor. Gerald Price said that penalties open to the court had been "ludicrously low" before the new law was instituted, so much so, that it had hardly been worth the time spent on the case. "I take greatly into account that Parliament has seen fit to amend the law in order to confront cases of this kind," he [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 Aug 83 p 3]

DROP IN INFLATION RATE--For the first time since November 1978, the inflation rate has dropped below six percent. According to the latest figures released in a statement by Government's statistical department, in the 12 months to July 1983, the annual rate of inflation was 5.9 percent compared with 6.1 percent in the 12 months to June 1983. July's retail price index rose by 0.4 percent over June's, the same change recorded in May and June. All sectors of the index made varying contributions to the July increase with the exception of transport and vehicles, which dropped by 0.1 percent. According to the

statement: "Food advanced 0.5 percent over the month. Although lower prices were observed for several items such as bacon, bologna, cod fish, lettuce and tomatoes, these were more than offset by higher prices for items such as ice cream, sugar and selected fruit and vegetables." Contributing to the increase in July's retail price index were rent, which rose by 0.8 percent, clothing and shoes, up by 0.4 percent, and household appliances and services, which rose by 0.4 percent. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Sep 83 p 3]

3298/055

CHIEF MINISTER OUTLINES PLANS FOR UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 17 Sep 83 pp 14, 15

[Text]

The last time I spoke to you through this medium (ZBVI), it was to tell you about my meeting in London with the Head of Cable and Wireless, Mr. Eric Sharp. That meeting, as you are aware by now, resulted in a visit from the Regional Director, Mr. Tom Chellew who came to inform us that additional lines were immediately being provided for Road Town, Jost Van Dyke and a new switching system was being put in at Long Swamp.

Tonight I will discuss an entirely different subject - that of Government's financing arm for local development - The Development Bank of the Virgin Islands. You may recall that when I took office as Chief Minister in late 1979, the Bank had been on "the Books" for several years.

A very few disbursements were being made to a few individuals. In spite of CDB almost literally begging that proper facilities be set up for loan disbursements, not even a Manager was appointed. By the end of 1980 however, I am happy to say that not only was a manager ap-

pointed, but new offices opened at Wickhams Cay and the Bank's clientele grew by leaps and bounds. In 1982 total monies actually disbursed surpassed the million dollar mark and the total assets of the bank stood at \$950,482.

Arising out of the increasing demand for loans particularly for retail and tourist related activities, I am happy to announce that CDB has recently approved a consolidated line of credit of one million dollars. My Government is considering contributing an additional \$300,000 in equity and a loan of \$300,000.

In the past there has been a tendency to regard the Development Bank as a Farmer's and Fishermen's Bank. While this was by no means an accurate observation, ladies and gentlemen, you'll be pleased to learn that in 1984 we hope to use 10 percent of the funds I referred to above to finance retail businesses. Furthermore, \$500,000 will be used to finance at least 3 larger projects that are tourist related, the cost of which are in excess of \$100,000 each.

Speaking of this, I would like to remind you that the Development Bank of the Virgin Islands is a relatively small institution which is forced to set a ceiling on the amount of money, lent to the public. As Mr. Singh, of CDB pointed out during the last Government sponsored Small Business Seminar, CDB may be approached directly with loan requests in excess of \$100,000. Mr. Vanterpool, the Manager of DBVI would nevertheless give you the necessary guidance in making these applications.

The Bank will also, as of this month, obtain the services of an Industrial Development Specialist who will assist applicants with loan applications and will generally advise on business investments.

My focussing before on the retail and tourist sectors, should in no way suggest neglect of our fishing and farming sectors. The fishing sector has shown the largest growth in demand during 1982. A total of approximately \$300,000 was approved for fishing loans and \$145,000 was disbursed. Disbursements on approved loans have continued into this year.

The increased demand for fishing loans has come at this time partly because of recent efforts made to educate fishermen to the benefits of better methods, equipment and vessels. In October of last year, the Fisheries Division of the Department of Agriculture started a series of on-shore and in-the-water demonstrations of fishing techniques. One immediate result has been an increase in demand for larger more advanced fishing boats and equipment, and the concept of marketing fish at the Fishing Terminal has had a positive effect on requests for fishing loans.

The Bank is attempting to encourage the increased production of tender vegetables for local consumption and export, and it is hoped that a larger number of small loans for this purpose will be disbursed by 1984.

Total approvals for agriculture in 1982 was \$68,500 and total disbursements, \$45,500.

Loans for small businesses, for agriculture, and fishing development in 1982 totalled \$642,648. It is projected that the demand for funds over the next 3 years will exceed one million dol-

lars, the largest increase in demand, being expected from tourism and small industrial development. In fact the disbursements made during the first half of this year alone totalled \$454,000, which is a record for the Development Bank. It is expected that this trend will continue over the next few years. The Bank, Ladies and Gentlemen, will be greatly expanding its role in the country's growth over the next few years. This will include provision of funds for medium priced housing among other things.

I have said all of this Ladies and Gentlemen, to show that the Development Bank of the Virgin Islands as the financing arm of Government for local development is achieving its aim which is to make financing available directly to local private businesses. This is the catalyst to the economic development of the British Virgin Islands. There are several other on-going development projects that I will be speaking to you about, and I hope next week to deal with the subject of Wickhams Cay which is always a matter of lively interest to all of you.

Goodnight.

TEACHER GROUP CALLS FOR SCHOOLS CLOSINGS IN BORDER AREA

Safety at Issue

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 6A

/text/ The National Association of Teachers /ANDE/ is calling for the closing of the 100 schools located in the northern border area of Upala in Alajuela Province, pledging that teachers will make up for lost days with vacation time when the current period of instability has ended.

This announcement was made by ANDE president, Prof Walter Acosta and the secretary general of the union, Prof Lilliam Mora, along with the personal testimony of Prof Tito Jose Somarribas, director of the San Jose School in Upala on the border with Nicaragua, who was sent to another area because of death threats he received from insurgents fighting the Managua regime.

According to ANDE spokesmen, there are about 120 teachers in that area with approximately 3,000 children in their care in an unsafe environment.

Somarribas affirmed that the authorities have been powerless in confronting groups from one faction or another who have taken over the territory for their battles, and he reported that a fierce battle had been waged 15 days ago between the Sandinists and the rebels 550 meters from La Victoria School, 1 kilometer from the Nicaraguan border.

The educator complained that the border zone between Upala and Los Chiles had become a miniature combat zone.

According to Somarribas, the police force detached to Los Chiles gives assurances that it has combed the entire district in search of soldiers, but he added that the problem lies in the fact that the insurgents mobilize at night in the mountains while the police operate during the daytime along the highway without entering the forested area.

Unsafe Conditions

ANDE representatives reported that last month in August the board of directors of their organization went to Upala for the purpose of verifying the alleged activities. They invited several federal officials, but the government responded by sending lower ranking officials, said Professor Acosta.

He specified, however, that at a meeting held in Upala with neighbors and community leaders, the conclusion was reached that the schools must be closed and the minister of public education, Eugenio Rodriguez Vega, was informed.

Ministry Denies Request

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 3

/Excerpts/ Educational facilities near the northern border will continue operating with appropriate protection, and only in special cases would a suspension of classes be considered in any of them, according to a statement by the vice minister of public education, Prof Ovidio Soto Blanco.

The official stated that "it would be inappropriate to close the schools because of problems not caused by us" in response to a complaint by the National Association of Teachers /ANDE/ which had advocated the suspension of classes in 100 schools because of safety problems for students, death threats against teachers and the outbreak of guerrilla warfare in the areas surrounding the educational facilities.

The Mexico, Nazareth and San Ramon schools have remained closed since the midyear vacation period because of continuous gunfire there recently.

ANDE criticized the actions of the 100 police who are carrying out "operation cleanup" in Upala as insufficient and ineffective, and it reaffirmed that serious threats still exist and that the lives of several teachers are in danger, including a school director.

9787

CSO: 3248/32

INTERNATIONALISTS WORKING TO IMPROVE ANGOLAN PORT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 Aug 83 p 6

/Text/ The expansion of the port of Luanda is an exceptionally important project for the economic development of the People's Republic of Angola, while for its Cuban builders it represents a fundamental goal in their cooperation with that fraternal nation.

After some interruptions, the Cuban workers in the port construction brigade have set themselves to stabilize the rate of production.

The main goal of the internationalists is to pave a wide area, which will be done using the rigid technique, with reinforced concrete.

With that goal in mind there is systematic quality control, measuring the structural resistance, which is about 300 kilograms per square centimeter, as well as the finishing steps including the esthetics of the project.

A kind of sub-base for the pavement is required due to the compaction of earth in such dry soil. To achieve that, the earth is moistened and mixed with cement in established proportions.

When the paving is finished, a rail line will be established in the Angolan port to facilitate the movement of shipments to the various warehouses for the domestic economy, and will allow better use of available space.

Moreover, the storage areas will be increased in open sections, simplifying handling of the goods and so permitting Luanda to begin operating in the port-transport-domestic economy chain.

"One aspiration we cannot renounce any working day is that of strictly following our plans," explained Arturo Perez Lago, secretary general of the Cuban Communist Party nucleus on the project.

The party leader also alludes to the relevance of the everyday realization of the agreements of the VI Plenum of the Central Committee, including emulation of basic aspects such as production, quality, and savings.

Moreover, special attention has been given to constant improvement of the living conditions of the men working on the project, and their use of free time. Toward this end, cultural activities, sports and recreation have been organized.

The most outstanding workers in the collective for 1982 were Urpiano Alfonso, Domingo Alfonso, Lazaro Suarez, Enrique Delgado, Francisco Acosta, and Jorge Cedeno.

The Union of Young Communists members in the collective set themselves 5 production incentives in honor of the recent celebration of the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks: the casting of 140 concrete blocks in 5 Sundays, at 28 per each youth mobilization, as well as other tasks of an internal nature within the organization.

The bulk of the construction work in 1983 began at the end of the first half of February when the concrete supplies arrived. Just before the end of that month they had cast over 2,000 cubic meters of concrete in 21 square meter blocks. At the same time they produced 5,200 square meters of subcement.

There are two concrete-work brigades here, four brigades of form builders, one of steelworkers, another for subcement, one for earth-moving, another to build pavement drainage channels, and another for construction projects, to build the manholes for service connections.

There is enthusiastic emulation among them, with generally positive results which translate into the high spirit of labor struggle that they exhibit daily.

The work on the port of Luanda will end around the end of this year or the beginning of next year. When it is finished, it will play a decisive role in the social progress of our brother country of Angola and will be a beautiful monument to internationalist solidarity.

8587

CSO: 3248/1281

BRIEFS

TEACHERS FOR ANGOLA--Alquizar--"We are convinced that you will know how to respond with your attitude and effort to the confidence placed in you by our revolutionary people, and that you will further enrich the internationalist tradition built by contingents in previous years," said Jose R. Fernandez, member of the party central committee and minister of education, during a friendly chat with the last group of teachers who will depart soon to our brother People's Republic of Angola to carry out their beautiful and historic mission. This group completes the total of nearly 2,000 primary and secondary school teachers and members of the Che Guevara Internationalist Teaching Brigade, from all provinces of the country. Of these, 673 are returning for their 2d year of work and the rest are going for the first time. During the meeting, which took place in the Alquizar Motel, the teachers expressed their firm intention to do the job the revolution has given them with discipline and quality.
/Article by Obdulio Velazco/ /Text/ /Havana GRANMA in Spanish 12 Aug 83 p 3/
8587

INTERNATIONALIST BRIGADE TO NICARAGUA--Havana--An internationalist brigade of 20 male students, members of the national vanguard of the Federation of University Students /FEU/ left for Nicaragua, where they will work for 20 days building housing for peasants. The collective is called the Carlos Fonseca Amador collective, and is headed by Oscar Mederos, member of the national secretariat of the FEU. He stated that this aid agency is an example of the close ties of friendship and solidarity between the National Union of Nicaraguan Students /UNEN/ and the Cuban Federation of University Students. He also said that this is one of the FEU projects in honor of the Fifth Congress of Latin American Students (V CLAE) which is to be held in Mangua, Nicaragua, from 12 to 15 September 1983. /Text/ /Havana GRANMA in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 3/ 8587

CSO: 3248/1281

BRIEFS

UDLP ACCOMMODATION STAND--ROSEAU, Dominica, Wednesday, (CANA)--Leader of the Opposition United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP) Michael Douglas says his party cannot see itself reaching an electoral accommodation with the leftwing Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) at this time, but it would be willing to link up with the Dominica Labour Party (DLP). Douglas was at the time responding to a question as to whether his party would follow a call by the DLM for an alliance of opposition parties to contest the next general elections in Dominica, constitutionally due in 1985. Douglas said: "We are open to an electoral accommodation with the Dominica Labour Party." That party is headed by a former Prime Minister, Oliver Seraphine. Recently, the DLP said it was prepared to enter into an accommodation with the DLM, "In an effort to minimise electoral conflict at the next elections." [Text] [Bridge Town BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/047

REASONS GIVEN FOR IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Excerpt] Yesterday the government explained that the restriction applied to the importation of new products and articles by means of the parallel market of some 15 million dollars in foreign currency, besides causing a reduction in the rate for the dollar, will also allow a more equitable redistribution of the burden of the austerity policy.

Through decree number 1390, President Salvador Jorge Blanco extended the restrictions in effect to new articles and products which include items from home edging to refrigerators and other household electric appliances.

In this decree the president of the republic includes some 70 articles and products in the provision which prohibits their importation until 1984.

By adopting this measure the head of state brings to mind that the government, by originally ordering the suspension of imports of a wide variety of articles "has had as its primary objectives to foster an equilibrium in the balance of payments, to reduce the flow of foreign currency out of the country, as well as bring about a greater expansion of industrial activities in the country, and subsequently, the creation of new job opportunities."

The products and merchandise whose importation will be suspended until January of next year are:

Fruit juices (not from concentrates)

Dietary preparations not identified in other items

Other varnishes

Other paints

Other essential oils

Maltine and colas made with dextrine

Products of tubes, rods, bars, drilled, milled or other ornaments worked other than on the surface (including artificial resin products and artificial raw materials)

Toilet paper in rolls or sheets

Papers for decorating rooms

Tapes or paper stripping for packaging and similar uses

Other paper cases or bags

Tablets (notes, receipts and the like) with printing

Notebooks without printing, with leather covers

Printed agendas with covers or linings of any material

All kinds of labels, paper or carton, including gummed, with printing

Paper for cash registers, in disks, sheets or rolls

Rugs and tapestries, velvets, plush, shredded or crushed fabrics or chenille, tapes, embroideries, knit mesh fabrics, lace edgings, bordered and silk laces

Artificial flowers, foliage and fruits

Undecorated china dishes, decorated china dishes

Vases, cups, jars, goblets, small decanters, fruit bowls, gravy boats, sugar bowls, knife and fork holders, clamps, fruits, platters and plates

Refrigerators for domestic use with electric equipment

Freezers for domestic use with electric equipment

Electromechanical appliances with attached motor for household use

Water heaters, bath heaters, and immersion electric heaters, electric heating appliances

In connection with the restrictions issued yesterday by President Salvador Jorge Blanco, the governor of the Central Bank, Bernardo Vega, issued the following press statement:

"The governor of the Central Bank felt that today's decree, which restricts some 15 million dollars in imports which were achieved by means of the free foreign exchange market, will reduce the pressure for an equivalent amount in said market, which should result in the lowering of the prime rate.

"The governor mentioned that the country's imports (excluding oil and foodstuffs) had gone up 12 percent during the first 7 months of 1983 in comparison with the same period in 1982, and that in light of the severe international economic crisis which is extensively eroding the terms of exchange in the country, we cannot permit ourselves the luxury of such a hefty increase in our imports.

"Finally he commented that the measure coincides with the austerity policy that the government has implemented since August 1982. It will also eventually redistribute the burden of this austerity policy in a fairer manner among the different importers and consumer groups in the country."

9730

CSO: 3248/1

PRD LEADER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY PROGRAM

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL DE AHORA in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Antonio Caceres]

[Text] Yesterday the PRD leader, Jose Ovalle, maintained that if the government does not relax the "drastic and rigid" austerity program, President Salvador Jorge Blanco will be handing over power to the opposition candidate in 1986.

Ovalle held that the "outdated" situation of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] is partly a result of the government's restrictive economic policy.

He also said that the PRD is "an effective machinery for winning elections" but it has not been able to control its governments with regard to the design of its policies.

The author of the so-called "Formula of Thirteen" which made the victory of today's President Salvador Jorge Blanco possible at the PRD convention to select a presidential candidate, strengthened his criticisms of the government's economic policies during a meeting held this morning with public reporters.

During the breakfast meeting held with the journalists at the home of Juan Jose Encarnacion, Ovalle made reference to the internal situation of the PRD and to the dissatisfaction that he said the government's economic policy has generated among the people.

Ovalle considered that the government should relax its economic austerity policy and channel it along a path that responds to the interests of the country.

He pointed out that if the government continues to apply the drastic and rigid austerity policy, it will make the economy healthy but it will bring about a PRD loss at the general elections.

Ovalle maintained that there is a dramatic situation in the country of generalized dissatisfaction in the national sectors that are demanding that the government fulfill a series of needs.

In this regard he suggested that the government provide for an increase in public spending and grant various state executive departments and other bodies the funds necessary to fulfill a series of needs and requirements of the people.

Among the requirements Ovalle cited problems of lack of public services, construction of streets, highways and neighborhood roads, and other problems that various communities have been claiming.

At the same time, he suggested that the austerity program aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit not be put into force for the first 3 years of the government, but rather that its time period be extended to relax the economy.

Because, he said that if the austerity policy is not relaxed, no turnaround in the Dominican economy is going to be seen. "And it is a certainty that a healthy fiscal policy can be achieved in 3 years," but the PRD will lose the elections in 1986.

Ovalle said that the appropriate thing would be for the government to achieve a healthy economy and for the PRD to win the elections.

He said that it is very important for the PRD to maintain power, because it guarantees the strengthening and continuation of the democratic institution.

"And it is important for the PRD to continue in power so that the country does not again fall into the clutches of the reformist machinery."

At the same time, he assured that the electoral power of the Dominican Revolutionary Party is in the hands of President Salvador Jorge Blanco's government.

In this sense he confirmed that the triumph of the PRD in the 1986 elections depends on the good governing of Jorge Blanco, to which end he called upon all sectors of the PRD to work together in harmony.

Ovalle repeatedly stated that if the government maintains the economic austerity policy during the next 3 years, in the fourth year it will hand over power to the opposition candidate.

And he indicated that the outdated position that he confirmed that the PRD is now in, with many sites shut down and upsets in the ranks, "is in part a result of the economic austerity policy, apart from the internal factors of the party."

9730

CSO: 3248/1

COTTON PRODUCTION COSTS ANALYZED, MORE FINANCING NEEDED

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 11

/Text/ Analysis of cotton production costs prepared by the CPCA, Council of Professional Cotton Raisers.

After a careful study of cotton production costs, it was concluded that to obtain an average production of 38 cwt (hundredweight) per manzana /1 manzana= about 1.7 acres/ the following disbursements must be made:

1. Rental		250.00 colons
2. Management		150.00 colons
3. Field administration		100.00 colons
4. Security		20.00 colons
5. Land preparation (as follows:)		
Clearing	25.00 colons	
Furrowing	30.00 colons	
Subsoil	25.00 colons	
Plowing	65.00 colons	
Harrowing 3 times	90.00 colons	
6. Planting and fertilizing		35.00 colons
7. Seed		16.08 colons
8. Planting of borders*		
9. Herbicides*		
10. Spreading of herbicides*		
11. Soil conservation		
1 day's wages per month per manzana for 5 months		37.80 colons
12. Replanting (2 days wages per manzana)		15.12 colons
13. Fertilizers		271.00 colons
14. Spreading of fertilizers		48.02 colons
7 days work @ 6.86 colons		
(women's wages)		
15. Foliation and its application*		
16. Insecticides (22 applications @ 40.00 colons)		880.00 colons
17. Spreading of insecticides		190.00 colons
22 applications @ 8.65 colons		
18. Removal of suckers (5 days work @ 6.86 colons)		34.30 colons
19. Combing (12 days work per combing with 3 combings)		272.16 colons
20. Combing of borders*		

21. Weeding*		
22. Weeding of borders*		
23. Drainage and removal of water*		
24. Pest control		46.36 colons
1 pest killer for 184 days for 30 manzanas		
25. Spraying and air base costs		15.00 colons
26. Cultivation (6 cultivations at 20 colons each)		120.00 colons
27. Field foremen	**	
28. Preparation for the harvest	**	
29. Harvesting 38 cwt @ 18.23 colons		693.00 colons
30. Transportation of supplies	**	
31. Miscellaneous jobs	**	
32. Bank commissions	**	
33. Accounting	**	
34. Auditing	**	
35. Social security	**	
36. Secretary	**	
37. Clerks	**	
38. Warehousemen	**	
39. Social services	**	
40. Unforeseen expenses	**	
41. Interest		213.00 colons
42. Financial expenses	**	
43. Legal expenses	**	

3,642.97 per
Manzana

38 cwt per manzana of production

Cost per cwt 95.86 colons

*This procedure is followed in cotton fields with a production of more than 38 cwt.

**These expenses are included under supervision and field administration.

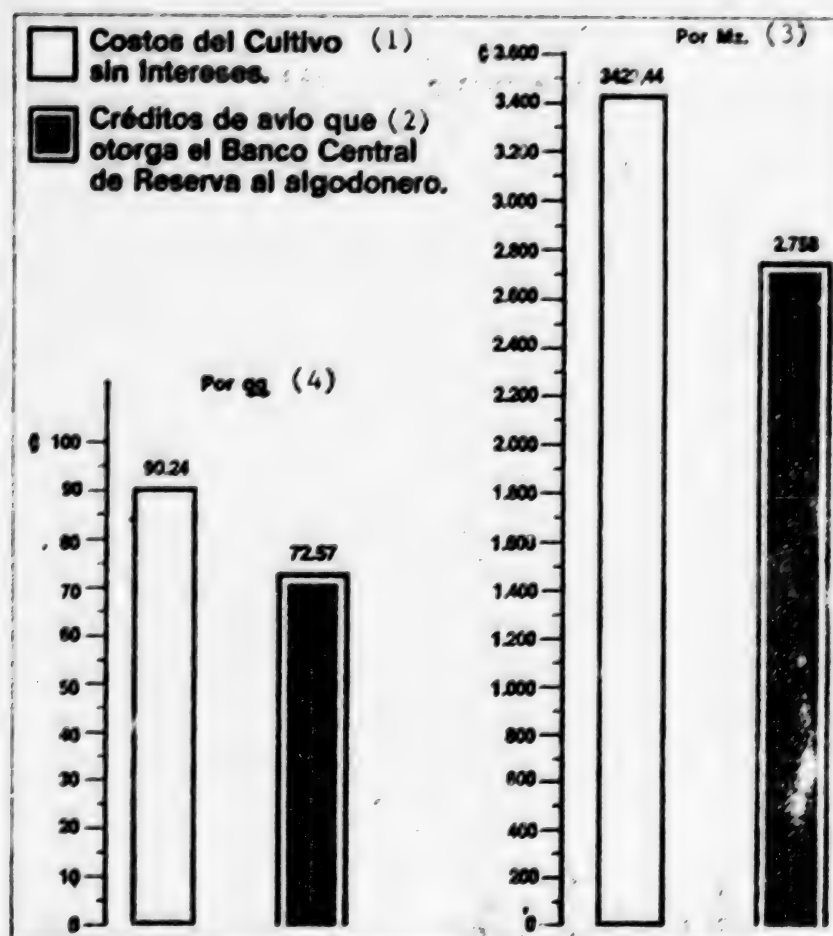


Photo 1

Key:

1. Cost of cotton production not counting interest
2. Credits granted as loans by the Banco Central de Reserva to the cotton Planters
3. Per manzana (about 1.7 acres)
4. Per cwt (hundredweight)

We realize that there are different kinds of soils as to natural fertility, slope, drainage, organic material and so forth. We have concrete opinions as to how to obtain a production of more than 38 cwt per manzana. For example: a better preparation of the soil would have to be made at a cost of 315 colons per manzana; in addition to nitrogen and phosphorus, one would have to fertilize with potassium, magnesium, calcium, boron and minor minerals which would cost 350.00 colons per manzana.

We provide this brief explanation to make it understood that we have quoted the minimum costs for production of 38 cwt per manzana.

Financing for cotton production by the Banco Central de Reserva compared to the costs prepared by the Council of Professional Cotton Raisers are as follows:

	<u>Council of Professional Cotton Raisers</u>	<u>Banco Central de Reserva</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1. Rental	250.00 colons	250.00 colons	-----
2. Seed, fertilizers, insecticides	1,167.08 colons	1,064.00 colons	103.08 colons
3. Farm work	1,128.76 colons	598.50 colons	530.26 colons
4. Aerial spraying	190.30 colons	161.50 colons	28.80 colons
5. Harvesting	<u>693.00 colons</u>	<u>684.00 colons</u>	<u>9.00 colons</u>
Cost per manzana	3,429.14 colons	2,758.00 colons	671.14 colons

from which we can conclude that the Banco Central de Reserva grants the farmer financing in the following percentages:

	<u>Percentage granted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1. Rental	100 percent	---
2. Seeds, fertilizers	91.17 percent	8.83 percent
3. Farm work	53.02 percent	46.98 percent
4. Aerial spraying	84.87 percent	15.13 percent
5. Harvesting	98.70 percent	1.30 percent

which covers 80 percent of the money needed for cotton production and the farmer must provide the remaining 20 percent. We give special mention to the farm work item, for which the financing is only 53 percent and this item is of the greatest importance since it is the one providing most work for our peasants. Also, if it is not done, it will have a decisive effect on the size of the crop.

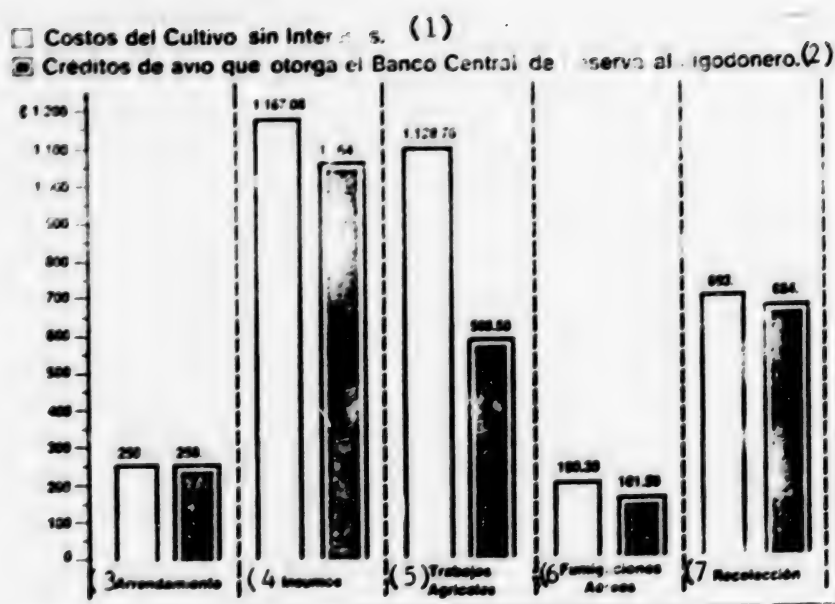


Photo II

Key:

1. Cost of cotton production not counting interest
2. Credits granted as loans by the Banco Central de Reserva to the cotton planters.
3. Rental
4. Expenses for purchases
5. Farm work
6. Aerial fumigation
7. Harvesting

From this analysis, we conclude that one step which the Banco Central de Reserva should take to solve the cotton production problem in El Salvador is to modify the financing of the production.

We believe that under the current conditions of additional risks in addition to the large and complex ones involved in production, the farmers cannot put up their own capital because one should keep in mind that the producers are without capital due to direct losses in production amounting to more than 2,000.00 colons per manzana which have accumulated during the last 2 years without taking into account the destruction by guerrillas in most of the cotton plantations in the country.

There will follow in future editions our recommendations for possible solutions.

Council of Professional Cotton Raisers

9204

CSO: 3248/1291

TWO HOUSING PROJECTS PROVIDE OVER 1500 HOMES

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 16 Sep 83 pp 3, 14

[Text] Two housing developments in San Miguel having 1,506 units and costing more than 27 million colons for both were inaugurated yesterday, Tuesday, 15 September, by the president of the republic, Alvaro Magana.

The projects are "El Molino" and "Santa Emilia" in the city of San Miguel, built by the Social Fund for Housing, employing 1,100 workers in their construction.

It is important to point out that this socially desirable project has been accomplished despite terrorist problems, which is a reason for pride in the work spirit among Salvadorans.

The El Molino project has a total of 579 houses and the value of each with two bedrooms is 15,724 colons.

The project has been accomplished with an investment of 9,188,008 colons. The Saving Bank, Atlacatl, has financed the work and Eng Ernesto Ricardo Schmidt, Eng Guillermo Ciudad Real, Jose Salvador Cantizano have been the construction companies.

Also, 700 people in total have worked on the project of El Molino.

In the Santa Emilia development there are 927 houses; the value of each house is 19,252 colons and the total cost of the project is 17,846,807 colons.

The work has been basically a project of the fund itself and the firms Castaneda Vasquez and Company and Construccen S.A. de C.V. have been the construction companies; the total number of people who have worked on this project is 500.

These works in the two housing developments are part of the efforts which are being made through the Social Fund for Housing and according to the unity government's projections to push forward projects of social benefit.

El Molino and Santa Emilia are two important housing developments constructed in San Miguel which will allow more than 1,000 families in the eastern region of the country to own their own homes.

BRIEFS

UPDATE ON FISHING FACILITIES--The commercial fishing dock of El Triunfo will be finished this year; and it is hoped that by the middle of next year the Acajutla dock will be in service, according to the plans of MAG [Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock]. In the Center for Fish Development of MAG, it was announced that the El Triunfo dock is 85 percent completed; while in Acajutla, work resumed in June when BID made its contribution. Construction of the docks began in the middle of 1981 as well as that of El Tamarino in the department of La Union, as part of a broad government plan for increasing the fish category and having another food alternative for Salvadorans. It was announced that under prevailing circumstances, work on the El Tamarindo dock has been suspended and that, furthermore, funds have not been made available. The cost of these works is 10.7 million colons, of which the Inter-American Development Bank has contributed 65 percent in accordance with the agreement signed by the Salvadoran authorities and those of that international financing organization. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, through the Center for Fishing Development, implements programs geared to favoring thousands of families in the coastal area of the country where they are engaged in commercial fishing, which is a type of infrastructure which represents stimulation for that important sector, driving the national economy forward. Furthermore, according to what was said, the Center for Fishing Development is giving priority to all the country's cooperatives in the field of marketing their products, since this is important in shaping a development plan, principally economic. The coastal area is a vast reservoir as far as fish is concerned; and it is there that MAG, though the appropriate organization, is promoting its plans, without neglecting any type of fish which is found in inland waters. [Text] [San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 16 Sep 83 pp 2, 14] 9678 .

CSO: 3248/10

COARD DISCUSSES PLANS FOR MARKETING, IMPORTS BOARD

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Trade and Planning, Bernard Coard has listed a number of goals for the Marketing and National Importing Board. MNIB, to achieve within the coming months.

Speaking at the opening, of a one-day seminar for workers at the Board on Monday, Minister Coard said the MNIB needed to obtain a major outlet in the heart of the capital; construct its own warehouse to avoid the exorbitant rents it now has to pay; import a new and wider range of products and increase the quantity and quality of its management.

The Minister said the MNIB's role was that of making profits and putting money into the treasury and not taking out of it. By making more profits, he said the taxes on the working people would be less.

He urged the workers to continue to speed up the process of training at the Board, adding that they must develop politically and academically. "Acquiring more skills will determine the make or break of the MNIB, he concluded.

The seminar, which was the first to be organised by the MNIB, came about as a result of a proposal made by the Board of Directors and subsequent discussions with MNIB's staff. It's main objective was that of creating a greater awareness among the workers about the operations of the institution as well as assessing the performance of the board during the first half of 1983.

The opening ceremony was chaired by MNIB's manager, Densil Wilks, who pointed out the importance of the Board in importing basic items which can be sold at cheaper prices, marketing farmers and agro-industrial products, shipping, and generating profits and employment.

Workers from the Carriacou and Petit Martinique divisions of the MNIB also participated in the seminar.

CSO: 3298/067

BRIEFS

5-YEAR PLAN STUDY--ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Sept 23, CANA: Grenada's Peoples's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has announced plans to draw up a five year economic development plan for the country to cover 1986-1990. According to Finance Minister Bernard Coard, the government has already begun to do the necessary feasibility studies, project documentation and planning for the plan. Coard said the government hoped to complete this phase of the plan within the next six months and then begin the task of mobilising international assistance for a programme of investments in tourism, agriculture and industry. "We have begun this work already. We would be working at full blast even while we draw up the plan for the next three years," he added. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 24 Sep 83 p 22]

COLOMBIAN ENVOY--COLOMBIAN ambassador to Grenada, Jose Antonio Lacouture, spent three days in the country last week on a familiarisation visit. He presented his credentials to Governor General, Sir Paul Scoon and held talks with Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman and other officials in that Ministry. An official in the Ministry revealed that the discussions between Min. Whiteman and Amb. Lacouture dealt mainly with the future development of co-operation in many areas between the two countries and the political situation in Central America and the Caribbean. He said they also reviewed bilateral relations between Grenada and Colombia, which are said to be very cordial. Amb. Antonio is based in Trinidad. Colombia is an active member of the four-nation Contadora group, which is working towards finding a negotiated settlement to the political conflict in Central America. Grenada has repeatedly expressed support for the Contadora's initiatives. Diplomatic relations between Grenada and Colombia were formally established on January 9, 1981. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 12]

CSO: 3298/067

REFUGEES SAID TO RETURN FROM MEXICO

Five Thousand Accept Amnesty

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 20 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Some 5,000 persons have taken recourse to the amnesty decree, and some 12,000 refugees who were in the mountains have had recourse to army protection, reported the chief of staff of the Defense Ministry.

In a press conference held yesterday in his office, Gen Jorge Mario Lopez Fuentes said that the amnesty decree has had very good results. He calculated the number having taken advantage of it at 5,000.

Concerning the refugees, he said that some 3,000 of these from Nebaj, Quiche, have abandoned the mountains and sought the protection of the army. In addition to them, another 9,000 people have done so in the departments of El Quiche, Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango.

Refugees in Mexico

With regard to the thousands of Guatemalans who have sought refuge in Mexico, the defense chief of staff said that this problem is being dealt with directly by the Foreign Relations Ministry.

He added that he was aware that the foreign minister has traveled and made contacts with Mexico in order to seek a solution to this problem.

But, he concluded, on behalf of the government of Guatemala, every guarantee can be offered to the refugees for their return to the country, and the complete protection of the army. The government, he said, is interested in all Guatemalans living in our country with the greatest tranquility and being able to devote themselves to their habitual work.

Return Attributed to Bilateral Talks

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The chief of the military zone of Huehuetenango, Quezaltenango and El Quiche, in Guatemala, Col Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, stated that the Guatemalan refugees settled in Chiapas "are returning in droves" as a result of the "bilateral conversations" that have occurred between the governments of their country and Mexico.

In an interview with the German agency DPA, Lobos Zamora assured that "there are no problems," between the two countries, and affirmed that his army "has never made an incursion into Mexican territory."

However, the reiterated violations of the country's territory by the Guatemalan armed forces have been the cause of numerous notes of protest on the part of the secretary of foreign relations, here.

Lobos Zamora is attending the Mexican Independence celebration on behalf of the government of Gen Oscar Mejia Victores.

"Many people were pressured by subversive groups to go to Mexico, but now are returning in droves," he emphasized.

"There have already been bilateral talks to permit Guatemalan refugees to return to their places of origin, and furthermore the latter do not run any danger, because the amnesty decree protects everyone," the military representative pointed out.

On other matters, he contradicted the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees by denying the incursions of Guatemalan troops into Chiapas:

"There exists absolutely no violation of the sovereignty of Mexican territory on the part of the Guatemalan troops, and the declarations to this end have been speculations without basis."

"In reality," the colonel concluded, "there have not been problems since the militaries of the two neighboring nations maintain a fraternity without frontiers. We men in uniform have one single formation, and for this reason there have not been incidents, and even if there had been, we military men think almost always with similar objectives."

For their part, sources of the UNHCR in Mexico denied that there had recently been repatriations or the return of the close to 60,000 Guatemalan refugees in the country.

12372

CSO: 3248/22

BRIEFS

SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN TOUR--At a press conference in his office Dr Leonardo Figueroa Villate, minister of public finance, described his European tour as successful. Dr Figueroa Villate described its success in the bilateral work sessions that were held with representatives of different countries and international organizations such as the Italian government, the International Agricultural Development Fund Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Development Fund [OPEC Fund], the World Bank and the Belgian and French governments. He said that negotiations were completed with the Italian government for an 18.8-million-dollar grant to the Guatemalan government. The Guatemalan minister of finance went to Rome to discuss the final arrangements. Negotiations were also conducted with the International Agricultural Development Fund to firm up projects which will be cofinanced with the Fund. Specifically, these involve the project to transfer technology to the small producers and the Momostenango integrated development project. OPEC Fund negotiations were also held to establish the framework for a loan to cofinance the Chixoy project and other projects in the health and education areas. Negotiations with the World Bank were conducted to complete final details and requirements for the industrial reactivation loan of 35 million dollars to be approved by the executive director during the first half of November 1983. Discussions with the French were held to determine the best means of increasing their economic financial cooperation. Finally, he said that negotiations with the Belgian government were held in which he spoke with industrialists and exporters to resolve current operational problems and to try to increase interchange between the two countries. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Sep 83 p 4] 8146

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION--Engineer Luis Hug Solares Aguilar, minister of communications, transportation and public works, announced yesterday that the government will initiate public works projects costing approximately 33 million quetzals. One of the priority projects is the construction of a hospital for Antigua Guatemala for which a budget of 14 million quetzals has been established. The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] is providing a grant for this project. Solares also said that hospitals will be built in

Malacatan, San Marcos, and one in Playa Grande, El Quiche. The first one will cost 3 million quetzals; the second one will be 5 million quetzals. An area in the Roosevelt Hospital will be remodeled to accommodate a modern cardiovascular unit which has been donated to Guatemala by the German government. The communication minister revealed that a bridge spanning the Chixoy River will be among the projects for this year and part of the next. For a cost of 2 million quetzals, this will provide land communication between El Quiche and Alta Verapaz. The bridge will be located close to Playa Grande. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 6] 8146

U.S. BEEF POLICY CRITICIZED--The United States opens its markets to Guatemala for the purchase of beef but at the same time "places us under the fine eye of a microscope" stated the minister of agriculture, livestock and food, Ivan Najera Farfan Rios. The official commented that Guatemalan meat is used in the United States only for the making of hamburgers or other similar foods. They say that the meat from our cattle has a lot of DDT and because of that does not qualify as prime grade. Therefore, he emphasized, the fact that the United States government has recently announced that it can buy from us the quantity of meat we have cannot be taken as an incentive for the national livestock industry. We are placed under a microscope and that makes our export trade difficult. Guatemala, he concluded, is seeking out new markets in Asia as well as Europe in order to improve the exporting of beef. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Sep 83 p 2] 9989

NEW ENTERPRISES--Fifty-six new businesses, representing an investment of 34,955,977 quetzals, were registered by the office of Industrial Policy of the Ministry of Economics between March 1982 and March of the present year. It was reported that these businesses gave employment to 2,163 workers who received salaries totaling 5,170,586 quetzals. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Sep 83 p 2] 9989

POLITICAL COMMITTEE REGISTRATION--A national registry official has announced that to date, nine committees for the establishment of political parties have registered. He added that the latest to register was the Revolutionary Civic Alliance [Alianza Cívica Revolucionaria]. Newsmen Luis Hurtado Aguilar, secretary general of the committee for the establishment of that party, said that the party had not registered earlier because, although the members support the policy of opening being promoted by the present government, they have never been able to reconcile their ideals with those of de facto governments. [Summary] [PA061442 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Oct 83]

CSO: 3248/58

PNC CONGRESS ACTIONS INDICATE CONCERNS WITH SECURITY

Issue of Economic Sabotage

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Party officers and Regional Chairmen have been assigned the duty of guarding against economic sabotage through education, to counter the various forms of this activity.

General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde Ptolemy Reid, who assigned them a number of tasks over the next biennium, has also called on them to lead by example.

He charged them to ensure that they clearly understand all the tasks assigned to them by the Party leadership so that they could execute these duties accurately and faithfully.

The Party officers and the Regional Chairmen have also been called on to assist in formulating ideas and projects which can help the general membership relate the ideological principles of the Party to their everyday activities.

Cde Reid also charged them to familiarise themselves with the Regional system and the mechanism through which the interest of the Party must be served.

They were called on to "make a careful study of the Party's ideology" and to participate in activities which are supportive of Party policy to bring about national self-sufficiency and which will enhance the economic well-being of the nation.

Cadre Discipline

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE recently concluded Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress has paid a lot of attention to the behaviour of Party cadres, some of whom have been accused of using their position in the Party for their personal gains.

Party Chairman, Cde. Cammie Ramsaroop, in his report to Congress, charged that some

members and supporters tried to exploit the Party "by throwing their weight around and trying to feather their nests."

He told of the efforts of the Party to rid itself of these unworthy elements which we suppose would be present in any organisation.

Of course, those who would be affected would complain. They would attempt to make

charges of favouritism and victimisation. None would seek to lay the blame at their own doors.

Take for example some indisciplined persons who during Congress were afforded an opportunity to make purchases of margarine. Rather than being content with satisfying their domestic requirements, these persons aided known blackmarketeers to get supplies of this commodity. The indisciplined few were helpers at Congress.

Some were also known to purchase cigarettes which they later retailed at blackmarket prices.

Sadly enough few Party members are prepared to report those who seek to bring discredit to the People's National Congress. Instead they are content with grumbling among themselves.

The Party has a Code of Conduct. It also has a Disciplinary Committee. This committee must now work if the Party is to attain to those heights of pristine glory it once commanded. Let those in our midst who are tempted be warned.

Opposition 'Disloyalty'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] A disclosure that was both disconcerting and revealing was made by President Burnham in his Congress address when he said that the same external sources which have blocked and cancelled loans to Guyana needed for agricultural development are working in collaboration with the opposition forces in this country to foment trouble. He rightly deemed such an opposition "disloyal."

Wherever there is disloyalty of this type there are Trojan horses, and Quislings, and where such exist the independence and integrity of the country are under imminent threat of subversion from inside.

This disclosure by the President is a reminder that, some time ago when the Minority Leader visited our western neighbour he was reported in the press over there to have encouraged the western claimants to come over and oust the Guyana Government.

On returning to Guyana, however, the Minority leader strenuously insisted that he had been misreported in the press over there.

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

THE opposition is traditionally regarded as the alternative government and, just as traditionally, the opposition shows that it has the resources of competence and loyalty to the country which governments everywhere have.

But the opposition forces in our Co-operative Republic of Guyana have completely deviated from this tradition characteristic of the opposition everywhere.

This deviation was discussed by President Burnham in his address to the Fifth Biennial Congress. With irrefutable facts in his possession, Cde. Burnham showed that the opposition forces in this country are the hirelings and mercenaries of the same external forces trying to destroy our economy and to recolonise the country by blocking loans sought for our development projects.

In his address the President said, "recently under the aegis of one of our churchmen politicians an attempt was made to bring together three heterogeneous political groupings, the PPP, the WPA and the VLD.

A more polyglot gathering can hardly be imagined. The constituents ranged from professed Marxists who have read, but never understood, the Marxist classics to unapologetic neo-Fascists.

The aim was to unseat the PNC but they could not agree even on tactics and the PPP leader claims that the WPA, whose leadership con-

sists of a number of PNC and PPP cast-offs, hopes to get the assistance of the CIA to oust Burnham from power".

He continued, "The PPP and the WPA are now at each other's throats and the latter on July 14 at Line Path, Corentyne, a former PPP stronghold, was able to break up a meeting held by the former. The hope of the disloyal opposition is to infiltrate with the assistance of a foreign power, the Trade Union Movement for its own nefarious purposes.

But this is not new. The tactic has been unsuccessfully tried by the PPP since 1964.

Cde. Burnham said Guyana is prepared to fight and in 1983, under the People's National Congress the country would not only survive but it would win the battle.

Congress discussions on the Party were deliberate and exhaustive. This became unavoidable in view of the new circumstances and conditions in which the Party is being called upon to maintain state power and secure the people's interests.

While the Fifth Biennial Congress ratified the decisions of the previous Congress with regard to (i) the fact that the People's National Congress is the vanguard organisation in the construction of Socialism in Guyana; and (ii) is the leading anti-imperialist force in this country, it also engaged in a thorough and critical analysis of the Party thereby

identifying shortcomings, seeking to correct them, and setting tasks for the next biennium.

The re-structuring of the Party Secretariat, the Constitutional changes in the Party, the establishment of a permanent, full-time Disciplinary Commission, the decision to have 'work-place' Party groups, the emphasis on ideological education, and the obligation of Party members to undergo appropriate ideological training, all signify greater efforts on the part of the Party to improve its work, better its membership, and serve the people more meaningfully.

The firmness of Congress with regard to the strengthening of Party units, countering slanders and calumnies, both within and without, intensifying the work of the YSM, WRSM, and GCSP and ensuring that senior Party comrades are well-cared for, would seem to devolve greater responsibilities on both the leadership and membership of the Party.

Therefore, a system which allows for constant, on-going evaluation will have to be built into the Party's administrative structure in order to ensure that Party's policies and directives are not flouted.

Truly, the Fifth Congress could rightly be said to have undertaken the mammoth task of transforming the Party into a more tightly knit and disciplined structure so that it could fulfil its historic role.

Unions: Target of Subversion

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] IN the Greek fable we read that the original Trojan Horse was a man-made replica of a horse so big that it could contain and conceal soldiers inside it. The Trojan Horse was a camouflage and when, at the right time, it was opened the soldiers came out and attacked.

From the ancient Greeks to the present, the term "Trojan Horse" remains in circulation and is intended to identify traitors and tricksters in all guises and disguises.

Warning the nation against the Trojan Horse. PNC Leader

Cde. Forbes Burnham told Congress not to relax vigilance and let in the Trojan horse.

"Let us all note, especially let the trade unions and trade unionists, that the trade union movement has been selected as the target for subversion," Comrade Leader told Congress.

It is a 'Trojan horse', which blocked and cancelled loans to Guyana intended for agricultural development and attainment of the national objective of self-reliance in food.

The most dangerous of the Trojan horses are the threateners from outside

because if there were no external Trojans there would be no internal scavenger Trojans.

Since the internal Trojans are dependent on their external counterparts the Trojans inside are extremely dangerous and should be the first to be extirpated.

Then there are Trojans throughout the public sector who, by acting indiscriminately and unjustly against workers, misuse their position of authority and thus make the public sector an incubator for breeding Trojans.

Administrative Committee Changes

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

ADMINISTRATIVE
Committee, a body within the People's National Congress, responsible for supervising and planning the activities of the Party Secretariat and for ensuring the efficient functioning of the Secretariat will now conduct its fortnightly meeting at Congress Place, Sophia.

Until last Wednesday, this body met at the Office of the Prime Minister from where Party General Secretary, Cde. Ptolemy Reid, executes his state duties.

The decision to shift the meeting is part of the programme to make Congress Place, the

venue for all Party activities especially since Congress Place is the headquarters of the People's National Congress.

Members of the Administrative Committee are generally paid Party officers. As a body the Committee may appoint a number of Party officials to execute tasks necessary for the efficiency of the Secretariat.

The Chairman of the Party and the General Secretary are members of the Administrative Committee.

PAPER SAYS SECURITY FORCES USED TO SUPPRESS CITIZENS

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 11 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

OUR NATION, at first glance, appears to be extremely security conscious. Our security forces far outnumber those of other Caribbean territories.

One in every 35 Guyanese is a member of a military or paramilitary force and has received training in the use of firearms.

Security checks at the airport are tight. Visits to sensitive areas in the interior are limited and strictly controlled. Gun licences are not easy to obtain.

Iron grills are evident in most houses. Business places and the homes of those who can afford the high charges, have security guards.

Yet, never have the Guyanese people felt more insecure in their homes and on the streets.

Violent crime has reached an unprecedented level, both in the frequency and in the savagery of the wounds inflicted.

Whole neighbourhoods, especially in the Indo-Guyanese areas, go to bed at night in fear of attack by armed bandits, many of whom act with military precision and wear parts of a military uniform.

The situation now seems to be completely beyond the control of the law enforcing agencies.

How can there be such insecurity when so much money and personnel have been expended on providing security?

The obvious reason is that the security forces have been establish-

ed primarily to keep the ruling party in power, to protect its interests and its leaders and to carry out its decrees.

The Army, the Police, the Special Security Branch, the People's Militia, the National Service, the National Guard, the military arm of the ruling party's youth arm, the private bodyguards of the political bosses, all exist for the party and most of them have sworn allegiance to it.

As this party has become increasingly estranged from the people, because of its failure to provide jobs, food and social services for them, the security forces are seen more and more as means of keeping the people in check.

The police today seem to pay more attention to political activists who present a threat to the party and to seizing forbidden food brought into the country and the vehicles in which it is found, than to pursuing real criminals.

Moreover, because of the existence of certain bad elements in the police force, people have come to fear the police, rather than look to them for protection.

The Guyana Human Rights Report speaks of "a rising level of bullying and extorting of money from traders, market vendors, shopkeepers and ordinary citizens."

Moreover, because of the turnover of membership in the armed forces over the years, there is in our com-

munity a significant number of men and women with military training and access to firearms.

In addition, there is the House of Israel, a group allied to the ruling party, that preaches a racial doctrine and whose members have a history of violence in breaking up opposition party political meetings and in killing Fr. Bernard Darke.

This private group has boasted publicly that its members are given military training.

In this setting, the government tells the Guyanese people to have the will to survive.

In their struggle to survive, the people today must not only concern themselves with seeking basic food items for themselves and children, but must also search for protection from the growing number of criminals in our midst.

The authorities have been ominously silent in this matter. We call on the Commissioner of Police to tell the people what the police are doing to protect them.

If they can do nothing, then it will be for the people themselves to form groups to watch their own homes and police their areas in order to provide some form of security.

CSO: 3298/069

GEORGETOWN COUNCIL BOLSTERS SECURITY AT CITY MARKETS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Georgetown City Council thinks that theft of stallholders' items and produce is the work of a well-organised party whose activity has forced the council to introduce a number of new security measures to reduce stall breakages.

And according to Mayor Mavis Benn, detecting theft is becoming increasingly more difficult since stallholders have reported losses without any evidence of stalls being broken.

"For some time now we have been experiencing tremendous difficulty with the security of our markets and according to reports submitted by the various officers from time to time there were several breakages of stalls, inside and outside the market and items removed.

"On the surface it appears to be a simple matter of just employing

more constables and placing them on duty at the markets, and this ought to reduce the number of breakages."

Cde Benn, speaking on her weekly broadcast last night, went on to point out, however, that the situation is not so simple, as it appears, "because we have had cases where stallholders reported losses and there was no evidence of any breakage of the stall and yet they complained of about substantial losses of goods.

Bringing the situation

under control has not been helped by stallholders who are aware of various methods used by thieves, but who are reluctant to volunteer their information," the Mayor noted.

The matter was discussed at length at an August 29 meeting. Coming out from this is an assurance that the council is taking all possible steps "to tighten up existing security arrangements," Cde Benn disclosed.

CSO, 3298/069

GUYMINE FIRINGS ASSAILED; 'HEAVY SECURITY' CHARGED

Impact of Retrenchments

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 5 Sep 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] "They should send us home too." This is what Guymine engineers are saying. "There are no workers to do the work."

Over the past week, Guymine called 50 foremen, selected 4, and retrenched 46. In Department 222 Diesel alone 30-odd mechanics were retrenched. In another case, 27 men and women were sent marching, one worker asked to be retrenched (this was granted) and one worker remained. At MV stores 32 workers were sent off and at Ituni, 48 went at one shot. For the Ituni workers who were encouraged to build homes there, their entire future is now in jeopardy. Ituni is about 36 miles from Wis/Mac. A typist from the General Office and her husband at the Alumina Plant both received notices. There have been several reports of workers asking to be retrenched because they see no future in the industry.

A woman pipe fitter scab wept bitterly when she received her letter. Two other non-strikers, Jeffrey and Haynes, workers at the mill and PNC supporters, were retrenched and recalled a few days later.

Retrenched workers are taken under police escort to uplift their personal tools from the workplace.

Among the union officials who are retrenched are Malcolm Thompson, GMWU Treasurer; Wallace Leach, GMWU Trustee; Philip Morris, Balram Ragobear, Kenneth Congreaves, Assistant Secretaries of the Industrial and Clerical & Technical Branches. Murtland Wilson another top union executive went at the same time the axe fell on his 48 fellow workers at Ituni. GMWU Executive Council member Ali Majeed and Vice President of the Industrial Branch John Cush have also been sent off. Also retrenched are Executive Committee members, Industrial Branch, Leyland Paul, Noble, McDonald and Russell and Executive Committee members, Clerical & Technical Branch Stanley Humphrey and Hailall Dhanpaul. John Millington, well known bauxite worker activist has received his retrenchment letter.

April to November is the peak marketing period for the industry according to workers. There are presently no stockpiles and Guymine will be delivering much less bauxite than has been ordered. Officials are said to be "hoping" for low tides so they can use this excuse to shippers to explain why the boats are not fully loaded. Even after the loss of the calcined monopoly, industry officials do not seem to appreciate the impact that markets lost now will have in the future.

Dismissal of Union Leaders

Georgetown MIRROR in English 4 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] WIDESPREAD fears that Guymine would use the current retrenchment axe to get at militant activists of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union have been confirmed. Among the 1,078 bauxite workers receiving the heavy blow so far are several shop stewards. Malcolm Thompson, Treasurer of the Union, and Control Clerk for 17 years, was given the boot. Eight Committee members of the Industrial Branch of the Union and three Committee members of the Clerical Branch are among the dismissed.

This anti-worker move by the state-owned bauxite monopoly in Guyana is geared to remove 1,721 bauxite workers from the payroll. The move began 24 hours after the PNC 5th Biennial Congress ended, and it is understood to be part of Guymine's plans for some time now. Retrenchment of workers has been on the agenda since the International Monetary Fund began putting pressures on the regime.

The bulk of those dismissed so far is from the Linden operations. The axe fell on Everton workers last week. Green construction, where the first exercise took place, fired 56 employees. Those dismissed have long years of service with the bauxite industry--some for as much as thirty-five years.

The Union has written the TUC Executive on developments in the industry but so far there has been no response. The impression created is that the TUC prefers to have a hands-off policy, as it has been cunningly doing for decades, thus becoming a willing tool of the present rulers. The umbrella body, controlled by the PNC, is sitting by idly while 1,721 workers are being denied their right to work.

A Union official told the Mirror that Guymine is out to destroy the Union and opined that retrenchment is not the answer to the serious crisis in the bauxite industry. Observers have stated that it is "shocking" that the Union of the workers, which only recently called an impressive strike, is not doing anything about the retrenchment. Instead of getting the workers to fight retrenchment, some leaders of the Union are thinking only about the workers' right to retrenchment benefits.

Union-Company Talks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Sep 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

THE Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives is continuing its efforts to ensure that the reduction of the labour force at Guymine is effected smoothly.

The meeting is expected to involve Guymine, the TUC, and the two bauxite unions, and will start today at 11:30 hrs.

Meanwhile, another meeting of the bauxite placement committee

will be held on Monday, at 14:00 hrs.

This committee, which is headed by Chief Labour Officer Cde. Oscar Moore, has been established by the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives to help the affected workers find alternative avenues of employment.

The purpose of this meeting is to update members on the

response from respective employers with respect to vacancies that might be filled by the committee.

It would also review the outcome of the visit by the Chairman and Cde. Hoyte to Linden on September 8.

(GNA)

Security Force Measures

Georgetown MIRROR in English 11 Sep 83 p 4

[Text]

THE bauxite township of Linden and surrounding areas such as Wismar are being treated as emergency zones by the regime's security forces which have taken up positions to deal with the angry workforce now under heavy blows as Guymine carries out its plan to sack 1,721 bauxite workers.

Last week, in an apparent bid to ward off any hotting-up of the temperature at Linden, the police top administration refused the People's Progressive Party permission to hold two public meetings in the area. No explicit reason was given for the refusal but it implied that extra security precautions are being taken and that the security forces have been deployed leaving no personnel to attend the meeting. It is usual for police to be present at public meetings.

It is clear that the regime is trying to keep the lid tightly on what could very well be an explosive situation. Already some 1,400 bauxite workers have been sacked in what Guymine calls an effort to save the industry

now going through its worse recession. The Unions, the Guyana Mine Workers Union and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union have been hit badly as the retrenchment of 1,721 hit out at militants and leaders of past industrial action against Guymine.

It is understood that Guymine will eventually sack some 2,000 workers and not the 1,721 as was indicated earlier. The exercise has reached, after Linden, the Everton, Itun' and Kwakwant operations. In all these areas investigations show that discrimination is glaring. The large majority of those dismissed are militant workers who in the past few years have been taking more anti-government actions in protesting the general decline in living and working conditions.

In the meantime, there has been severe criticism of the union by rank and file members for not uniting and organising the workers to take positive action against Guymine to halt the retrenchment. Since the re-

trenchment started no meeting has been called by the union to speak to the workers at Linden where most of the sackings took place.

Sources said that the union has been making contacts with management of Guymin to sort out problems related to the dismissal of shop stewards and union officers like Union Treasurer, Malcolm Thomson. The Union wants them reinstated. GMWU also contacted the TUC but that body has done nothing on the issue so far. The upcoming annual conference of the TUC is expected to witness heated discussions on Guymin's actions.

An official of the Caribbean Bauxite Union was reportedly in Guyana for a short while and spoke to representatives of the two unions in the industry and the General Secretary of the TUC, Joseph Pollydora.

CSO: 3298/069

FOOD CRISIS, RICE, SUGAR SITUATION GET BROAD ATTENTION

Call for Ouster of Government

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 4 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

IT IS INCREDIBLE that a government, whether legitimate or not, should be so insensitive to the people's needs as to endanger a feeding programme for nursery children at this time.

Flour has arrived for this programme, according to an agreement made three years ago with the United Nations World Food Programme.

The distribution of snacks is due to start in a couple of weeks when schools reopen, but government has now decreed that the biscuits to be distributed must be made of rice flour.

It is fairly certain that this cannot be done, at least, not in time for the September term. Only now is government working out a formula for the rice biscuits.

Whether biscuits according to that formula can be produced by the local factories is extremely doubtful.

The reason given for government's action is its "unequivocal decision for food self-reliance".

What this means we are at a loss to know. Already our biscuits are made from gifts of wheat flour from the EEC, and the Georgetown Milk Plant is greatly assisted with gifts of skimmed milk powder and butter oil from the same source.

Like most countries in the world, we have never been self-sufficient in food, and in recent years, with declining production, we have become even less so.

We produce less beef, poultry, eggs, milk and pork than we did years ago, and a study conducted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development has found that for the foreseeable future we cannot produce enough to feed ourselves.

With the worsening economic crisis in Guyana, we need as much help as we can obtain from abroad.

Anyone, unless he be completely cut off from the people and has all his needs provided for, must say that our food situation is critical.

Carl Blackman in an excellent article on Food in last Sunday's Chronicle, says this in very forthright fashion.

"I don't mind what the party sycophants and official spokesmen say, I am convinced that the food situation is critical..."

In writing this, he was echoing the opinion of the vast majority of the Guyanese people.

Why then should government block gifts of large quantities of milk and cheese offered to the Guyana Council of Churches by their sister churches in the Caribbean?

Why should government endanger a feeding programme for nursery children?

Why does it keep on the wharf 1,800 bags of flour, donated by the WFP, when people are in dire need of bread?

As Carl Blackman said, "The will to survive is fortified by a full stomach."

The people should let their voices be heard.

We welcome the gesture of the VLD party of distributing wheat flour roti at a public meeting in Campbellville on Tuesday, Aug. 23, while challenging the policemen present to stop them.

Food is a matter of life and death. A government that cannot provide food that the people need and continually thwarts their efforts to provide it for themselves, has lost its main reason for existence. It is time for it to go.

Regional Food Plan

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

TWO officials of the Ministry of Agriculture recently visited the Berbice area to hold discussions with regional officials on matters pertaining to a national agriculture plan.

The officials, acting Chief Agriculture Officer Dr Pat Mackenzie and Chief Planner Parbhoo Seekra, examined projects in the region to ensure that they fall within the seven-year

national agriculture plan.

Discussions centred on topics such as fish and live-stock production and also the cultivation of rice, coconut, ground provision, vegetables and corn.

Some of the projects undertaken by the Region are expected to boost food production by as much as 20 per cent within the next two years. (GNA).

Burnham on Consumption Patterns

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham Friday night, urged the Society of Professional Agriculturists of Guyana to help de-brainwash Guyanese because a brain-washed people cannot be independent.

This exhortation was in specific reference to the local pattern of food consumption and certain beliefs about foreign foods.

Cde Burnham was at the time relating to SPAG his reflections on the role of professional agriculturists in national and regional development. His remarks came after he and the Prime Minister, Cde Ptolemy Reid, along with three other persons were awarded honorary membership of the Society. The three are Agriculture Adviser to the President, Cde Gavin Kennard, Head of the Department of Soil Science at the University of the West Indies, Professor Nazeer Ahmad, and the acting Managing Director of the Caribbean Food Corporation Dr Haslington Chesney. The presentations were made at the Public Service Union hall in Thomas Lands.

Earlier in his reflections the President charged that countries of the North proposed to dominate the world

through the availability of food.

With reference to the tactics used for international food control, he observed that Guyana although it was producing rice, was being told that there is "nothing like wheat." In addition people in the underdeveloped countries are led to believe that the only "good" edible oil is made from soyabean, but that crop cannot be successfully grown in the tropics because it is highly susceptible to disease.

He contended that the region, more so Guyana, has enough land space to grow its own food. But he asked the gathering, "Are we not at this time being dissuaded from making the best use of our natural resources?" Further he warned: "He who feeds you controls you."

The President said that SPAG is sufficiently exposed to appreciate

that when one speaks of food self-sufficiency, one is speaking of using the resources of one's country, and in this case one must be speaking of using the resources of the Caribbean region.

Cde Burnham stated that the relevant type of research now is applied research. He noted that it is important in this period to find out things like how much oil can be extracted from wild nuts. He said that to merely talk of agriculture without being interested in research is a waste of time.

He said that it is the duty of SPAG to pressure the Government to make available more funds for applied research.

The President warned that they cannot be professional agriculturists unless their objective, both physically and mentally, is to make life better for people in the communities.

Rice Prices

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

WITH immediate effect, rice farmers will receive incentives for grades of paddy sold to the Guyana Rice Board (except sub-standard) with 12 to 14 per cent moisture content.

For paddy with 12 per cent moisture farmers will receive four dollars per bag, of 140 lbs. For paddy with 13 per cent moisture they will receive \$3.50 per bag of 140 lbs and for paddy

with 14 per cent moisture three dollars per bag of 140 lbs.

The GRB release said that the move is to encourage farmers to dry their own paddy and so ease the bottle-neck during intake. This new approach will also help to ensure better storage since paddy with 12 to 14 per cent moisture can be stored immediately, the GRB release said. — (GNA).

Rice Board Security Problems

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] THE Guyana Rice Board has had to dismiss about 120 persons including security personnel between last year and now because of theft and other forms of dishonesty involving hundreds of thousands of dollars of money and property.

"Security has now become a top priority here and certain personnel have to be locked in here during the night," GRB General Manager Leon Dundas said at his Water Street office.

Cde Dundas said thefts and other acts of dishonesty were still continuing to plague the Board's operations.

"Right now a man is on remand in prison pending sentence to allow him an opportunity to make restitution to the Board," Cde Dundas explained.

And more persons will be dismissed shortly, the General Manager disclosed.

Giving a breakdown, Cde Dundas said 75 persons were dismissed last year and for this year so far 38 have been given the sack. Their offences include ordinary theft, falsification of accounts, irregularities, dishonest practices and vandalism, according to reports forwarded to Guystac.

The acts range from larceny of fertiliser to the selling of bolts and nuts taken off silos.

Meanwhile, as the Board continues its drive towards efficiency, another phase of retrenchment has begun. By month-end 139 persons from both management and non-management categories are to be sent home.

Some persons are already off the job, having received their notices last month.

A breakdown of the retrenchment plan shows that Head Office will lose 10; MARDS operations will get rid of 57; Anna Regina 50 and East Berbice 18. Four managers are among the retrenched personnel.

Cde Dundas told the Chronicle the retrenchment reflected operations no longer being carried out by the Board since its activities had been decentralised.

He pointed out that some of those being sent off may be absorbed by the Regional Rice Boards and other agencies. However, Government has an ongoing programme to assist retrenched persons to find alternative employment.

New Rice Incentives

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Sep 83 pp 1,5

[Text]

THE Guyana Rice Board, in an effort to increase production and attract sale of parboiled and white rice by millers and farmers, is offering new incentives, effective immediately.

For parboiled rice in 180 lb bags delivered at GRB warehouses, farmers and millers will now receive an incentive of \$12 per bag for Extra Super, \$10 per bag for Super, \$7 per bag for

Extra No 1 and \$5 per bag for No 1. The 110 lb bags of parboiled will attract \$7.25 per bag for Extra Super, \$6 per bag for Super, \$4.25 per bag for Extra No 1 and \$3.05 per bag for No 1.

It means that the price paid to farmers and millers for Extra Super will now be for 180 lb bags: \$92.10 for Extra Super, \$87.10 for Super, \$80.50 for Extra No 1 and \$74.60 No 1.

For the 110 lb bags farmers will now get \$86.80 for Extra Super, \$83.30 for Super, \$60.20 for Extra No 1 and \$46.55 for No 1.

White rice will attract incentives in two categories: Extra White A in 180 lb bags \$7 and in 110 bags \$4.25 and White

A in 180 lb bags \$5 and in 110 lb bags \$3.05

Consequently the GRB will pay \$84.20 for Extra White A in 180 lb bags and \$81.53 for Extra White A in 110 lb bags. White A in 180 lb bags will be bought by the GRB for \$79.20 and in 110 bags for \$46.55.

In a release yesterday afternoon, General Manager Leon Dundas

said the prices paid by consumers to the GRB will now be affected by the "internal adjustments and incentives."

The incentives became effective from September 6 and Cde Dundas confirmed that they were offered in an attempt to maximise the Board's intake of parboiled and white rice to meet its various commitments.

GUYSUCO 1982 Report

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

GUYANA is capable of supplying the so-called Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) with an annual quota of 5,000 tonnes of sugar at prices agreed to by the Caricom Council of Ministers, a senior industry official said.

The assurance was given by chairman of the State-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) Harold Davis in his report for 1982 which has been presented to the National Assembly.

Davis said Caricom countries buy Guyana's sugar when the world price is high, as it was in 1980, but go to other sources when the price is low.

The chairman noted that the corporation had argued strongly that when the world price is low "we should be allowed to negotiate with the Caricom LDCs, a price below the agreed Caricom price but above the world price."

His report said Guyana met its 1981-82 quota to the European Community by June 30 this year and also took up the agreed share of the Trinidad and Tobago shortfall reallocated to other ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

Trinidad and Tobago this year produced

77,200 tonnes of sugar, a 1.9 per cent fall on last year's output. The twin-island republic was unable to fulfil quotas for the United States and EEC markets.

"The EEC quota, which gives us a secure longterm outlet for more than 55 per cent of our exportable sugar, continues to be funda-

mental to our marketing strategy", the report said.

It noted that the pressure "seems to be growing in the EEC to limit price increases strictly with all that this implies for the price which the ACP countries themselves will receive."

Poor Sugar Performance

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Sep 83 p 9

[Text]

CONTINUED unfavourable weather and its consequential effects on yield, together with stoppages of work at Skeldon, Albion/Port Mourant, L.B.I., Enmore and Diamond accounted for another week of unsatisfactory performance by the sugar industry, a release from the Guyana Sugar Corporation stated yesterday.

The unseasonal poor harvesting weather which has not let up since the commencement of the current crop is causing deteriorating field conditions while yields due to rainfall remain at a low level.

Whilst weather has had and will always have adverse effects on

performance, last week's production has been severely hampered by strikes. The corporation wishes to point out that the majority of these strikes were due to extraneous conditions and have no industrial basis.

The strike at Diamond for example, was caused because a man was killed on the Public Road in the vicinity of Diamond. He was fetching water due to a break-down of one of GUYWA'S pumps in the area.

On the other estates, workers have made excessive demands which the industry cannot and is not prepared to meet. Sugar estates will satisfy reasonable demands but cannot and will not accede to claims which both managerial and non-managerial workers know are excessive.

Unnecessary stoppages of work more than the weather, the corporation believes, are the main

causes of the continued poor performance in the industry.

Despite the unsatisfactory harvesting conditions and stoppages of work, the industry produced 6 780 tons sugar for the week against an estimate of 10 755 tons — 63 per cent achievement.

The crop position has moved to 45 255 tons which represents 63.65 per cent of the crop's estimate of 71 085 tons to date. The year's total has reached 131 380 tons.

No estate has achieved a placement on the Guysuco Production Honours Roll but Rose Hall estate which has made 1 300 tons or 92.3 per cent of its estimate of 1 300 tons has earned Honourable Mention.

The corporation is concerned about the current production situation which must be improved if commitments are to be met and full use made of additional marketing opportunities.

CSO: 3298/071

UK VISITORS WEIGH MARKETING OF NONTRADITIONAL GOODS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 83 p 8

[Text] THREE London-based Guyanese, who remained in the country after attending the PNC's Fifth Biennial Congress, are favourably impressed with the range and quality of products available for export on the overseas market.

Two members of the three-man group yesterday morning met with Cdes. Malcolm Parris and Patrick Denny of the Party Secretariat to finalise financial and marketing arrangements for certain non-traditional commodities.

The visitors last week met with officials from the recently established Export Promotion Council to discuss the planned structure and function of that body.

They also paid a visit to selected booths at the National Exhibition and, arising from this, Council officials arranged a tour to a number of factories and offices.

The first site visited was Ricks and Sari Industries, where extensive discussions were held concerning a consignment of goods which was already in London. Further discussion is to be held before the team leaves for London on September 17.

Other sites visited included: Squirrel Manufacturing Company, the Guyana Liquor Corporation, the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation's Quality Foods Division, and the Craft Division of the Ministry of Co-operatives.

The team was particularly impressed with the range of products at the Craft Division and Quality Foods Division and arrangements were made for the team to receive price lists of items from both establishments.

The team held extensive discussions with Dr. Thomas Richmond, General Manager of the Guyana Marketing Corporation, on the shipping of commodities and it was agreed that perishable products should be airfreighted and non-perishables transported by ship.

Early next week the team, along with officials from the Export Promotion Council, will again meet representatives from Ricks and Sari and the Guyana Liquor Corporation to finalise pricing and supply arrangements.

CSO: 3298/071

GOLD, DIAMOND INDUSTRIES SUBJECTED TO NEW SCRUTINY

'Tough' Government Measures

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A \$10000 maximum fine for any breach, is among the tough new measures to be imposed by Government to force compliance with the Mining Act.

Provision is also made for the forfeiture of any aircraft, ship, carriage, together with all animals and things, dredge and specified used in the commission of any act, or for a purpose prohibited under the Mining Act.

Incidental provisions for search of any such aircraft etc. and seizure of aircraft etc. liable for forfeiture are also proposed in the Mining Amendment Bill to be debated in the National Assembly Monday.

The Bill which was introduced recently by Minister of Energy and Mines Harun Rashid has already had its first reading. It was part of

the steps announced by Minister Rashid in an effort to maximise production, in the gold and diamond industry.

Miners are already benefiting from the substantial increase in price being paid by the Guyana Gold Board and other facilitating Government action is on stream.

The explanatory memorandum to the Mining (Amendment) Bill 1983 said it would enable the Minister to make regulations requiring the registration of dredges in mining districts and claims and the taking out of licences for them.

Under the new law the Minister will specify machinery, equipment or plant used for mining, processing or preparation of any metal or mineral which may be required to be registered or for which licence is

required to be taken out.

"Any dredge or specified machinery required to be registered or for which a licence is required to be taken out but is not registered or licensed and found in any mining district or claim shall be liable, as proposed in the Bill, for forfeiture," the memorandum said.

The Bill also seeks to empower the Minister to accept, on behalf of the State, compensation from any person reasonably suspected of contravention of the Act, or any regulation made under, in substitution for proceedings in a Court.

Besides, it is proposed to "clarify" that all fines, penalties, forfeitures and proceeds of sale of forfeitures and certain other payments and receipts under the Act shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Miners' Pledges of Cooperation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

GOLD and Diamond Miners' Association members acknowledged at a meeting Wednesday

the importance of foreign exchange to the entire economy and the required contribution by gold production.

Association President Eugene Adams explained that sales of gold now have a direct relationship to the quantity of equipment miners could import, specifically to the value of 30 per cent of individual gold sales, under recently announced measures.

The meeting of miners at their headquarters on North Street, agreed that the nation needs foreign exchange in substantial amounts while the gold industry itself depends on such accumulated reserves for financing imports of vital mining equipment and spares.

Wednesday's special meeting was convened to discuss the recent gold price increase and other matters. The meeting also discussed problems affecting miners in relation to credit facilities.

Miners described the price increase as "very fair," and expressed willingness to co-operate to raise declared gold production.

On credit, however, miners reported "evasive" responses at the recommended state-sector bank "contrary to the government's declared policy with

regards credit to the gold industry."

There were some bright spots other than the financial benefits from the new price increases. The Miners' Association Executive announced that from this month the organisation will distribute certain basic food items and other commodities to affiliate mining operations.

Association President Adams reminded that help could be given only to miners who join the association and provide regular information on problems at their mining operations. (GNA)

Smuggling Problem

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Sep 83 pp 1, 4

[Article by George Baird]

[Text]

THE maximum penalty for breaching regulations made under the Mining Act will now be \$25000 and not \$10000 as originally proposed when the Mining (Amendment) Bill, 1982, was first published.

Minister of Energy and Mines Harun Rashid successfully moved an amendment to the Bill to effect the new maximum when he piloted the legislation through the House yesterday.

Under the old Mining Act provisions maximum penalty was a mere \$200.

Before moving the amendment, Minister Rashid told the National Assembly that conservative estimates indicate that Guyana loses over \$75 million a year from the illegal exportation of gold from the country.

He said the economy could not withstand such a loss and it was the duty of the Government to take practical steps to curb it.

The Bill, among other things, makes provision for the registration and licensing of dredges and other mining equipment and machinery, closer monitoring of gold production, and the seizing of any aircraft, ship or vehicles used to commit offences under the Mining Act.

FOUND WANTING

Cde Rashid said that in the past there was an ad hoc approach to monitoring the gold industry and measures instituted unfortunately did not work and were found wanting.

Even the setting up of the Gold Board about a year ago also has not worked since statistics

have proved that miners were not reporting anything near to their true production.

Minister Rashid said that after a detailed study and consultation with the Gold and Diamond Miners' Association, there is now a plan to shift the gold industry alongside the bauxite and sugar industry as a foreign exchange earner.

Cde Rashid said he was convinced that there were patriotic miners who want to help accelerate the development of the country and the Government was moving to do away with the constraints and limitations which have prevented the gold industry from making an impact on the economy.

According to him, the measures would reduce the cost of production to miners and stimulate the

industry but those steps alone could not work and must be supplemented by a regime of controls to monitor production more effectively and curb the activity of deviants who are bent on robbing the country of its resources.

The Bill was supported in principle by the Minority parties but People's Progressive Party spokesman Reepu Daman Persaud and United Force MP M.A. Abraham criticised some of the provisions.

Mr. Abraham was concerned about the wide powers given the Police to search without warrants and said he hoped this authority would not be used as a weapon for victimisation.

Cde Persaud was against the Minister exercising administrative powers under the law.

He warned too that laws alone cannot achieve the desirability of getting the gold into the official stream.

Cde Persaud called on the Government to look into loopholes and disincentives which prevent miners from handing over the gold.

INCREASE

Minister Rashid replying, said Govern-

ment was making a two-fold approach...removing constraints by granting assistance and also by announcing a substantial increase in the price paid by the Gold Board.

He pointed out that it was the Government's intention to ensure that all gold produced is channelled into the official system for the benefit of the people.

Cde Rashid said Government will try its utmost to see that any reported cases of abuse of power are looked at impartially.

In response to a criticism that the penalties for not registering were arbitrary and harsh, the Minister said a grace period of two months will be allowed for registration and licensing but after that strict and firm action will have to be taken.

He disclosed too that mining inspectors will no longer remain in their Brickdam Office but will go into the field where their work will be supported by the Regional Administration.

Minister Rashid called on the Opposition to co-operate with the Government and demonstrate their stated objectivity.

TUC OFFICIAL RESIGNS, MIRROR SEES DISPUTE WITH GOVERNMENT

CHRONICLE Report

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] THE Guyana Trades Union Congress has accepted the resignation of T.U.C. executive council member Frank Nicholson.

Cde Nicholson, who was elected at the last Annual Delegates' Conference of the TUC in September tendered his resignation to T.U.C. General Secretary Joseph Pollydore.

In his letter of resignation Cde Nicholson of N.U.P.S.E. is reported to have said that he was unhappy about the way in which the T.U.C. was operating

Cde Pollydore declined to comment on Nicholson's assertion on the grounds that Cde Nicholson had expressed his viewpoint and the T.U.C. had not discussed the matter.

MIRROR's Background Details

Georgetown MIRROR in English 11 Sep 83 pp 2-3

[Text] A TOP official of the Guyana Trades Union Congress has quit in disgust over the way the institution is being managed, and also over how it is being manipulated by the PNC regime. He is F. Nicholson, industrial relations officer of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPSE). Mr. Nicholson held the post of executive council member in the TUC.

Mirror understands that many unions are fed up with happenings in the TUC, and over the TUC's failure to effectively represent the workers who are under heavy attack at the moment. These unions are also annoyed over the presence of government Ministers in the TUC executive, and are agitating for them to be removed as speedily as possible.

In his letter to TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore Mr. Nicholson said that he was confirming his oral intimation to the Executive Council at a meeting on 31st August, 1983 resigning his position as an Executive Member of the Guyana Trades Union Congress.

Within recent times, he noted, the interest of the working people has not been protected and defended by the Trades Union Congress.

A Trades Union Congress as presently composed and where there are even Ministers of the Government sitting on the Council as members cannot do justice to the masses, he emphasised. The letter continued:

"How would the interest of workers be protected when the Trades Union Congress failed to respond to a dispute involving my Union since February, 1983, and this has resulted in workers being dismissed after they went on protest strike to enforce their claims for recognition?

"I am also aware that because of the slow pace at which the Trades Union Congress handled matters several similar dismissals took place more recently at S.A.P.I.L. where the workers went on strike demanding the recognition of N.A.A.C.I.E.

"The very fabric of the right to strike is put in jeopardy when nothing is done by the parent body of organised labour to correct and redress the situation.

"At the moment workers are having a difficult time in obtaining basic food items and are finding it impossible to make ends meet. The Trades Union Congress while supporting a resolution for the importation of basic items including wheat flour did nothing to see the objectives of the resolution realised.

"It is against this background where the inactivity of the Trades Union Congress has caused untold hardships to the masses that I am resigning as an Executive Council Member.

"Had I seen any hope that the present composition of the Trades Union Congress would work towards improving the interest of the masses then I would have had to reconsider my decision.

"But because of my firm conviction that those who have been elected to serve the workers have long ceased to be genuine representatives of the working class, I have no other alternative than to convey my strong disapproval of what is taking place."

At present it could be considered that a rift is developing in the hierarchy of the TUC. There are now 7 dissident unions, GAWU, UGSA, CCWU, NAACIE, GMWU, GBSU, and now NUPSE. None of these unions is now in the executive of the TUC, the important decision making body of the organisation.

CSO: 3298/072

FURTHER DETAILS ON PPP ASSEMBLYMAN'S RESIGNATION

PNC Organ's Report

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 83 p 8

[Text] The People's Progressive Party which once enjoyed a confusing alliance with a number of misfits, only to realise its mistake too late, has suffered yet another setback. It has lost one of its most valuable supporters, Cde Dalchand.

Dalchand's resignation which was announced in the National Assembly, Thursday, is another in a long list of defections from the PPP which still dreams of occupying the seat of government in the lifetime of its leaders.

Dalchand first entered the National Assembly on May 24, 1976 (the PPP did not take its seat immediately after the 1973 General Elections) and remained a Member of Parliament until his resignation Thursday.

Ironically, when Dalchand's resignation was announced he had already taken up permanent residence overseas.

His political career was not spectacular since few Guyanese could actually place him but his few interjections in the National Assembly placed him among the brighter lot in the PPP.

A PPP source says that party expects more resignations within the coming months.

PPP Rejoinder

Georgetown MIRROR in English 11 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] THE PPP wishes to refute a dirty slander committed by the New Nation, official organ of the PNC, to the effect that Dalchand, who has resigned from the National Assembly, 'defected' or 'deserted' his Party. In a statement sent to the media, the Party said:--

This is grossly untrue. Dalchand, a long standing and loyal member of the Party, informed the leadership some time ago of his intention to live aboard,

for purely personal reasons. For that reason, he did not contest a seat in the Central Committee at the last Party Congress. Dalchand's departure was done in a principled manner, in line with his behaviour and performance in the many years he was a member of the PPP. The Party had, through the years, placed him in responsible positions in which he performed well. When the date of his departure was certain, a farewell function was held at Freedom House where laudatory remarks were made by leading members, including the General Secretary, and where he replied, re-affirming his loyalty to the Party.

On the personal note, Dalchand's family, following the murder of his father-in-law during an armed robbery, never felt safe in Guyana. This, unfortunately, is the view of many Guyanese who feel that the police do not give adequate protection against the growing violent crime in this country.

Further, it is not true that Dalchand's resignation was announced at the last meeting of the National Assembly. We can only wonder where that information came from.

In the meantime, Freedom House has informed the MIRROR that PPP Secretary for Organisation Harripersaud Nokts will replace Dalchand in the National Assembly.

CSO: 3298/072

BRIEFS

TROUBLE FOR CO-OPS--THE PNC regime's ill-advised economic policies are continuing to have a disastrous effect on the co-operative sector. This effect is reflected in the regular collapse of co-ops as reported in the Official Gazette. In the issue of August 27, 1983 Chief Co-operatives Development Officer M. G. Edghill announced that he was named a liquidator for the National Consumers' Co-operative Society Ltd. No. 898. The society is based at Mackenzie in the bauxite mining township, which is currently under severe political and administrative pressure emanating from the regime. The area is short of food stocks and miners recently went on strike against the shortages. Now the co-op outlet has folded up, a development which is expected to lead to more hardships on consumers. For this year so far, some 6 important co-ops have been gazetted as dissolved and/or liquidated. Many others are in serious difficulties, and are already attracting the attention of the Co-op Department which is operating on a shoe-string budget of only \$350,000 for 1983. Observers in the co-operative sector have stressed that a mere \$50,000 earmarked by the government for co-operative development in 1983 are inadequate to stave off further collapse in the sector. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 4 Sep 83 pp 2-3]

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES--THE GUYANA Match Factory on Fri Sept. 16, joins the many other private businesses that have been forced to close down or drastically cut down their operations because of lack of imported raw materials and spare parts. The Company, Guyana's sole manufacturer of matches, does not expect to recommence operations until about Feb. 1984, as even if licences are granted and letters of credit provided now, the orders could not be effected and the raw materials shipped before the end of the year. Allowing for delays in securing letters of credit and in shipping, the supplies may not arrive till Jan. 1984 and production may only recommence in February. [Excerpt] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 11 Sep 83 pp 1, 3]

UNION RECOGNITION--The Guyana Electricity Corporation and the Guyana Public Service Union yesterday signed a recognition agreement covering union management staff. The agreement was signed in the Boardroom of the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives. It will not cover persons designated as management trainees. Contained in the agreement are provisions for the handling of grievances, the settling of agreement-interpretation problems by the Chief Labour Officer, and the payment of agency shop fees. In picture GEC and GPSU officials go through the text of the agreement. Third and fourth from left

are S.G. Goolsaran Personnel and Industrial Relations Manager of Guystac and Cde Marva Bascom, who witnessed the signing on behalf of the Chief Labour Officer. Signing for the GEC were acting General Manager Cde Neville Barnwell and Personnel Manager Cde Abdul Gafoor at left, while Cdes George Daniels, not in photo, K. B. Philad and Winston Wills affixed their signatures for the GPSU. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Sep 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/073

PNP HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE; MANLEY SCORES ECONOMY

Nightly Public Sessions

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

The annual conference of the People's National Party, which will be held from tomorrow to Sunday, will have as a special public sessions each night until Saturday, commencing at 8 p.m.

Dr. Paul Robertson, general secretary of the PNP, said these public sessions are in addition to the usual closing public session

on Sunday, September 25, at which the president of the party, Mr. Michael Manley, will give the main address.

Guest speakers tomorrow night will be Prof. Rex. Nettleford, O.M., and the Rev. Ashley Smith.

On Thursday and Friday nights, the guest speakers will be from

North and Central America and, in addition, a special film recently produced by Saul Landau will be shown, a release from the PNP said.

The guest speaker on Saturday night will be the Ambassador to the United Nations from the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Nicaraguan, Other Guests

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Nicaragua's Education Minister, His Excellency Carlos Tunerman, will be the guest speaker at the Public Session of the People's National Party's 45th Annual Conference now taking place at the National Arena, at eight o'clock on tonight.

In addition to the address, a documentary on Nicaragua produced by the U.S. film director, Saul Landau, will be shown.

Saturday night's guest speaker will be the Secre-

tary for Foreign Relations of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), the Hon. Peter Mueshahange. The Foreign Relations Secretary will speak on the problems affecting the black people of Southern Africa.

The final Public Session of the PNP's Conference will take place on Sunday commencing at 10.00 a.m., at which the main address will be given by the Party's President, Mr. Michael Manley.

Criticism of House Inaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

Charges that the Government was bringing the House of Representatives into "disrespect" by its failure to answer questions, were made by Opposition members on Tuesday afternoon.

The Opposition's dissatisfaction was voiced at Question Time in the House after the Leader of the House, and Minister of Labour and the Public Service, the Hon. J. A. G. Smith informed the Speaker, the Hon. Gilbert Forrest, that he had no answers to questions.

Opposition member for South West St. Andrew, Miss Portia Simpson, then spoke out against the lack of answers from the Government to questions which she had asked.

Miss Simpson said she was "really disturbed" that questions she had asked on behalf of the Jamaican people had fallen off the Order Paper.

Referring to questions on the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation which she had given notice of asking the Minister of Information on July 26, Miss Simpson wanted to know if providing answers on the station was so difficult.

Declaring that she wanted "answers this evening," Miss Simpson said the Government was laying the "integrity of the House on the altar of disrespect."

Replying, Mr. Smith said that some of the questions were not answered in the last session. He shared Miss Simpson's concern, but was doing his best to get answers because he too had an interest in hearing answers.

Mr. Smith promised to renew his efforts to get answers to questions.

Opposition Member for West St. Andrew, Mr. Dudley Thompson, said the House was not being treated properly or with respect. The country was being held in contempt, Mr. Thompson said.

According to him, a question which he had given notice of on July 27, which sought information from the Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy, as to whether the Bank of Jamaica had sold any foreign currency for the purchase of crude oil or other petroleum products for this year, was easy to answer. "It shouldn't take civil servants a day," he declared.

Mr. Thompson said answers to questions were important to help counter rumours which people would manufacture in the absence of facts from the Government. Rumours were often not to the benefit of good Government, he said.

Mr. Thompson said he did not want Mr. Smith to share the concern of the Opposition but to answer questions.

Mr. Smith rising once more said that to answer questions was not as simple as Mr. Thompson had claimed.

He repeated his promise to take steps to see that questions were answered.

Opposition member for East Central St. Mary, Mr. Terrence Gillespie, also had his say, claiming that other groupings in the country also experienced the same problem with the Government.

Address at Opening Session

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Sep 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

"Any notion of Jamaica parading as an American-type corporate economy before we are ourselves, is doomed to failure," Professor Rex Nettleford, head of the Department of Extra Mural Studies, University of the West Indies, told the opening public session of the People's National Party's 45th annual conference at the National Arena Wednesday night.

Professor Nettleford who was speaking on the

topic: "Building a Nation, Shaping a Society," advocated the participation of the majority of the people in the development and building of the country, and said there were a number of myths which needed to be exploded.

"First among them," he said, "is the myth that the private sector as we know it is the engine of development. For the Jamaican private sector, as we know it, has been the victim of a

peculiar history just as the workers have been.

"It is in this sense that we are all brothers under the skin. Commission agents do not a truly entrepreneurial class make, and I sometimes wonder whether the struggle against capitalists is not a shadow-boxing affair since there are no Rockefellers and Fords among us.

"And when a Jamaican Prime Minister goes off to the International Monetary

Fund of the World Bank or to investors in search of funds, it is the human capital and productive potential of our people and all the national assets of this country which are put up as collateral."

Professor Nettleford said the great initiatives for economic advance here had had been public enterprise initiatives taken by different Governments to date on behalf of the people "who are required to produce, pay taxes and smile for the tourist and the investor."

He continued: "There is need, then, for the right type of structural arrangements to reflect this reality. The engine of development must be the people and not something called the private sector. And any notion of Jamaica parading as an American-type corporate economy before we are ourselves is doomed to failure."

"The same goes for those who think that a few elected men and women called the Government, as trustees of our popular power, have the absolute right to move the economy without the constant involvement of, or reference to, the people."

Stop, look, & listen

A people coming out of economic domination under slavery and colonialism, carried with them over generations, a psychic inheritance which instinctively fought against any attempt of reinstitution of that state of existence, he said.

"Shaping a society, means then, that a new perception of how our people have gone about their economic business is important for the contemporary shapers. The higglers are telling us something. It may not be

what we want to hear. But let us stop, look and listen.

"Our people certainly will not produce unless they know who and for what they are producing and the who must include them, and the what must be their material and spiritual development. It is a lesson taught us over and over again but yet to be heeded."

Professor Nettleford identified another myth as the one which claimed that independence, the two-party system, the Westminster model, the five-yearly exercise in dipping finger in the ink, had brought justice and democracy. "These are, after all, means to greater ends and not ends in themselves."

Another myth that needed exploding, he said, "is the notion that the sacrifices that we must continue to make must come primarily from the mass of the people. The sacrifices, because of the struggle, must come from everyone."

"Only so can those who wish to retain power and influence in their hands have a claim to the moral authority which is the basis of the legitimacy of those who wish not to be aliens in our land but to be numbered among the real people."

Also a myth, which was prevalent though not openly expressed, was the pretence that Jamaican labour was cheap; there was "primitive innocence" and so investors could hope to have a field day.

Professor Nettleford said even if local labour was cheap in money terms, it was not in terms of productivity. "For if this country continues to treat its labour force as though it does not matter to the overall development of the society, Jamaica will pay the price of industrial sab-

otage through withdrawal of enthusiasm which is worse than a go-slow or a strike."

He advised politicians and planners "to pay more attention to the products of the creative imagination of our people and get the educational system to take them seriously."

"Look to the writers, the musicians, the poets, the painters, the potters, the choreographers, the sculptors for some indication of what is going on. For they live beneath the skin of the society and know in a real sense where we are going and what we are doing."

"The public opinion polls can tell you what are the feelings of a day or a moment, they cannot tell you what are the deeper social and psychological needs of our people who have had to devise strategies and stratagems of survival against the ravages of severance and suffering and the continuing deprivation in economic, social and political terms."

Professor Nettleford also noted that sections of the media now gave the impression that "our national concern is with the celebration in 1994 of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival to the New World while not a noise is made about the 150th anniversary next year of the Emancipation Act of 1834, which gave Jamaicans and other English-speaking Caribbean people status as persons in law and made it possible for us all to be here tonight as at least legally human beings."

Professor Nettleford stated that his advocacy of the majority's interests was not an advocacy for a class of people who must be expected to sit back and do nothing.

"On the contrary, they have a job to perform as citizens of a new Jamaica.

to understand that for the society to belong to them, they must be prepared to get control of it by sustained application, by demand for active participation and a willingness to follow through with action for the total good."

Manley Speech

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Sep 83 pp 1, 18

[Text] The President of Peoples National Party, Mr. Michale Manley told the final public session of the Party's 45th annual conference at the National Arena yesterday that "I don't believe that we'll ever solve the terrible economic crisis if we don't solve the political crisis that stands between us and the economy," He said the PNP was convinced that Jamaica's problem had to be tackled first on the grounds of agriculture and rural development.

"We believe that road to our salvation has to be industry and agriculture; we have to use the path for greater and greater self-sufficiency in food; we have to work towards non-traditional exports and we believe that land reform must once again be at the heart of our programme," Mr. Manley declared.

Mr. Manley, who is also Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition warned the nation that it should brace itself for "more blows" as indications are that the price of gasoline and milk would be increased, based on his analysis of current economic trends.

Mr. Manley said that prices had not been "paralysed" as a result of the effects of the parallel market arrangement, instead he noted that the prices were "highly mobile", moving upward weekly.

Addressing the public session of the 45th annual conference of the Peoples National Party at the National Arena yesterday, Mr. Manley said the Government wanted the conference to be out of the way to deal with the price of milk, and he warned that Jamaicans should prepare themselves for blows as the country was on the edge of a precipice of financial disaster.

Claiming no authority on prophecy he invited the thousands of cheering supporters who crammed the Arena, and spilled over into the National Stadium Park, to look at the price of gasoline which he accused the Government of making a mis-calculation of working out the price of gas at J\$2.76 to US\$1 and eking out of the public a taxation of 19 cents.

"They now have to pay \$2.96 to buy the same oil... I suspect that a blow is coming. I hope I'm wrong. So I don't know whether they're going to try to take back the tax that they tried to take as thieves in the night. Let history

be the judge," Mr. Manley declared. He said that the Opposition had behaved absolutely respectably when the price of gas was increased in June last.

He said that the "PNP is not in any sabotage, but he could not "guarantee the reaction of people in the face of another blow."

Mr. Manley called on the Government to find a way of keeping the gas price at its present level, and said that when one looked at the high prices, distress and confusion in the country, it was no wonder the Government had to resort to diversionary tactic in the hope that the people's mind would be taken away from the truth.

He referred to what he described as two independence celebrations in August and the move by the Prime Minister to change the coat-of-arms, a situation which he saw as the Government's making "poppy show" of Jamaica as a nation.

"There's no question that the country is in a crisis," Mr. Manley said. He added: "Right now we are paying for our oil bill on letters of credit and we cannot finance it adequately month by month." He referred to a recent statement from the bankers that the inflows of parallel market dollars had decreased dramatically because of the fixed rate agreement among the commercial banks.

Quoting the Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, Mr. Manley said the country had so over-run its quota in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that it could not get any resources under the Extended Fund Facility from the Fund next year. "Either the strategy is wrong or they never had a strategy at all," he added, observing that the country had borrowed over US\$1 billion last year.

Of the deregulation process of the government, he said that it had caused two major casualties; the protection had been pulled down, exposing the small farmers who were wiped out making the way for luxury imports and the small businessmen had also been destroyed, resulting in thousands of layoffs.

By 1980, the PNP Government, much abused, cursed and maligned had fought for years to keep down imports and build up exports that the country could earn enough foreign exchange to survive, Mr. Manley said.

He said the PNP had struggled to maintain a gap in the foreign exchange as small as possible, the Government of management had traded a loss of US\$619 million and this year it was going to be worse.

"Now I want the Government to tell us, if the economic strategy is running the country at a loss of over US\$600 million a year, what is their plan to finance it? Did he let people run away because he's responsible, wanted to score political points or President Reagan or the IMF promised him the US\$600 million, Mr. Manley said.

He said that by 1986 the Government had calculated that it was going to cost more to pay for two items which he noted were the oil bill and debt servicing, items which were going to cost the country over US\$1,000 million a year.

LOOKING AT WHAT WAS likely to be earned, Mr. Manley said that with tourism, bauxite and CARICOM export proceeds combined the country could barely earn little under US\$800 million. But this earning had to pay for debt servicing and oil, at which point fertilizer, insecticide, drugs, wheat for flour had not yet been considered.

He told his supporters that this was the "mess" the PNP had to clean up when it came back to power.

Mr. Manley said that the Government "don't have the guts to tell the people tighten their belts and sacrifice, set the

small farmers back to work, put the small businessmen in production and set the people free."

He said that unemployment was running between 28 and 29 per cent, and he did not want to enter Jamaica House on the basis of a lie.

"If the Jamaican people want to be sustained on the illusion of an easy hope, our party is not in for that," he said.

REFERRING to the policy which the PNP would be pursuing when it attained state power, Mr. Manley said that self-reliance was not a word to play with but expressed the heart of a national strategy.

"I say without hesitation that the greatest crime committed against the Jamaican people was the act of the JLP demobilising the Jamaica people. Our task is to remobilise the Jamaican people", he declared.

He said that Jamaica was in a political crisis because the Government did not understand the use of power, robbing the people of the capacity for united action and it was difficult for them to understand self-reliance but it was not difficult to get Jamaicans to express

patriotic feeling in action.

Turning to the moral decay in the country, Mr. Manley deplored the use and trafficking of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroine which he said was spreading through all sectors of the society. He said that these hard drugs were a detriment to the youth of the country, stating that if people cared they would wipe out the use of the drugs and put the traffickers in prison.

Mr. Manley appealed to the Government to co-operate with the PNP in this regard, warning that if any person who claimed allegiance to the Party was caught involved in trafficking in hard drugs, he would be disgraced and expelled.

He also appealed to the Party's supporters and the nation at large to be patriotic and stand firm, desisting from the export of the much needed foreign exchange. He said his supporters should do anything they could to stem the flight of capital from the island, drawing a parallel with the JLP when it was in opposition and accusing its supporters of encouraging people to export currency from the island then.

Stone on PNP 'Revival'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Sep 83 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

Seven months after the PNP had experienced its worst political defeat at the hands of the JLP in October 1980, popular support for the PNP slumped from 37% of the electorate (in October 1980) to 20% in May 1981. It was the lowest level of party strength ever recorded in the newspaper polls we have been doing since early 1976.

Not even a bold and adventurous clairvoyant would have dared to predict then that support for the PNP was about to rise almost meteorically over the next 17 months. By October 1982 our polls show the PNP support climbing to 43%, while JLP support dropped to 38% (from 48%) as the ranks of the uncommitted voters also dramatically declined from 30% to 19%.

The shift in political mood took even the PNP leaders by surprise as they did absolutely nothing to cultivate public support. In fact PNP credibility has risen virtually by default as voters have increasingly lost faith in the JLP leadership.

The conference held by the PNP last week, therefore, mirrored a level of confidence and re-newed energy which has not been seen in PNP leadership or rank and file circles for quite some time.

Dramatic shift

In the more leisurely pace of our politics in the past, parties had ten years in which to prepare themselves for power. The dramatic shift in political mood across the country (as reflected in the last two *Gleaner* polls) has helped to engender a sense of urgency within the ranks of the PNP leadership to prepare itself for power just in case these political trends continue.

But one hardly needs to conduct scientific polls to sense how much the political turf out in the rural areas

especially was shifted over the past 18 months. You only have to travel around and talk to poor people.

Acute shortage

The JLP faithful will of course accuse the polls of aiding and abetting the revival of the PNP. But I need hardly remind them that for three years prior to the October elections we published polls each of which showed that the then opposition JLP was ahead of the governing PNP. Many would like to conveniently forget that fact and to accuse us of harrasing the JLP government, in much the same way that the PNP's D. K. Duncan raved and ranted on JBC on election night, blaming his party's election defeat on Carl Stone's polls.

The acute shortage of foreign exchange is tightening like a "noose" around the economy's neck. The devastating impact it is going to have (on production, employment and incomes) over the next few years suggests that it is going to require an economic miracle to reverse these political trends.

To be sure, our pattern of politics in the Jamaica has been one in which parties grew strong in opposition and weak in government as I pointed out in "Decolonization and the Caribbean state system", in THE NEWER CARIBBEAN. The only apparent difference in the current period is that the cycle seems to be shortening as the economic and social problems grow beyond the reach of the solutions of our elected governments to really handle with credibility.

But while the PNP is deriving great glee from the inability of the Seaga government to get the economy moving, they would do well to remember that their stay at the wicket in the 1970's was an equally horrible innings, although for quite different reasons.

If they are seriously aspiring to power they would be well advised to come back to the wicket with some new approaches, and to seriously try to learn from the many glaring policy and political errors they committed in that period.

Organisational discipline

There are those among the PNP who would like to see JLP policy failures as a vindication of socialism in the 1970's, but that line of thought is quite mistaken.

The wicket has got faster and is taking even more spin than in the 1970's. For starters, the state's financial resources simply are not adequate (nor are there international financial supports) to mount many of the public projects tried by the PNP in the 1970's. A re-elected PNP government that lacks either organisational discipline (so absent in the 1970's) or new approaches to deal with the considerably deepened economic crisis might well look even worse than Seaga's JLP.

Winning elections is easy. Government is quite another matter.

But then, my guess is that talk of elections now is quite premature as the JLP would be foolish not to give its investment policies more time to bear fruit before testing the political temperature by the ballot box.

It is a sign of a maturity of polity, however, that the opposition party is beginning so long before a likely election to prepare its policy thinking and directions so that if power is passed they will be prepared to get their act together from the word go. Virtually every government prior to the 1980's took at least 2 to 3 years to get a feel for economic policy. Happily the deepening economic crisis is apparently removing that leisurely approach to policy making.

CSO: 3298/057

VOTER REGISTRATION UNDER WAY, MEETS SOME RESISTANCE

Progress Report

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Sep 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] Some 550,000 persons have already been enumerated, representing just under 50 per cent of the 1.2 million target set by the Electoral Office, the Director of Elections, Mr. Noel Lee, said yesterday.

He said that the majority of constituencies were levelling at an average of 75 per cent of the persons eligible for enumeration with the rural areas recording a higher degree of response.

"We are on target as we had originally hoped to be in the field for six to seven weeks and we have already completed four weeks so we are going to be out there for another three weeks," Mr. Lee added. This was confirmed at a review meeting held with enumerators last week end where some reported that they were near completion in the constituencies assigned.

Giving examples of the performance of some of the rural parishes, Mr. Lee said in an interview with the Gleaner yesterday that St. Thomas Eastern recorded 90 per cent, St. Ann Northeast, 75 percent and Clarendon Northern, 80 per cent.

As the enumeration exercise gains momentum, the Electoral Office will be stepping up its advertising campaign, encouraging people to get enumerated as at the close of the exercise in October those who have been left out will not be able to get their identification cards through other means.

Mr. Lee urged residents to be at their homes when the enumerators were doing their rounds because the law required that persons to be enumerated be at their residence.

POINTING TO PROBLEMS encountered in the field, Mr. Lee said that operations in St. Andrew Western had to be cancelled because the enumerators were "badly trained" and their quality of work was considered poor which had resulted in the resignation of the Returning Officer for the constituency.

However, the enumerators had undergone re-training in a number of sessions, following which, work had started in two of the three divisions in the constituency to re-do the exercise, Mr. Lee told the Gleaner, expressing the hope that work would start next week in the other division.

The volatile situation in St. Andrew Southern had forced the enumerators to do their work on a phased basis in two electoral divisions. Work will commence in the other two at a later date with a completion time set for the end of October.

Mr. Lee appealed especially to the residents of St. Andrew Western to "exercise some patience in this matter" while he recognised that it was bothersome for a person, after being enumerated, to be called upon to do it again. He asked for co-operation of the citizens against the background that the quality of work was extremely bad.

Violence had been occurring in some areas, particularly in the Corporate Area, Mr. Lee noted, adding that this was totally unrelated to the enumeration exercise but it made matters a little harder for the enumerators who were timid to enter the affected areas.

There was some unwillingness on the part of rural folk to get enumerated because of the age-old fear that Government was trying to pry into their business but with the help of the political parties the enumerators had been surmounting that hurdle.

Mr. Lee also indicated that there was a reluctance of Corporate Area youth to get their photographs taken and be thumb-printed fearing that the information would be made available to the police.

ATTEMPTING TO ALLAY anxiety, Mr. Lee said: "The pictures and thumb prints are for electoral purposes alone and will not be made available to anyone else." Of the two photographs taken, one will be sent to the polling station on voting day while the other will be used to produce the ID cards. If the ID card is lost, the Presiding Officer will look for the name on the Electoral Office's list and if he is not sure that the name befits the description of the person, the photograph file will be referred to for verification.

Mr. Lee said that the projection was for ID cards to be distributed to those enumerated by April and May next year. All citizens should keep their certificates of enumeration until the ID cards are delivered.

Technicians from Thomas De La Rue, the firm supplying equipment for the exercise, will arrive in the island mid-October to train local staff in the production of the ID cards. Equipment for this purpose is already in place.

For the effective operations of the Electoral Office, Mr. Lee said, the decision had been taken to appoint six regional supervisors; two in Kingston and St. Andrew, and one each for East, Southern, Central and Western Jamaica. Mr. H. G. Anderson has been appointed regional supervisor for Western Jamaica while applications are being processed for the other regions.

"The operations are going satisfactorily. I feel that we're on target and running very well," Mr. Lee said.

Carl Stone Comments

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Sep 83 p 6

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] Since voter registration got started, rumours have been running hot in middle class circles suggesting that many adult citizens are refusing to register as voters.

The story one has been getting is that many citizens are fed up with the JLP but are still afraid to put Michael Manley and the PNP socialists back into power. The reaction they are said to be giving forth is one of loss of faith in the two major parties and no interest in the tiny communist WPJ.

Now, I have no doubt that these are sentiments to which some of us can relate, but my recent excursion into party polling did not come up with findings suggesting that large sections of the Jamaican electorate are about to either abandon the two parties or their responsibility as citizens to elect the government of their choice through the ballot box.

Since my last political polls were done before the registration of voters started, we decided to investigate the matter by doing a survey of the voting and registration intentions of citizens in a poor section of the Corporate Area.

My findings indicate that vote and registration intentions among Corporate Area working class men, women and young people are just about normal compared to earlier registration of voters in recent elections.

Registered to Vote

I found that 30% of the persons we interviewed had already been registered to vote. Another 51% said they had not yet been registered but had every intention of making sure their names were on the list to ensure their opportunity to vote if they felt like it. Another 18% were not registered and had no intention of doing so while 1% refused to answer our questionnaire.

Compared to polls done by me for the nation as a whole in the period leading into the 1980 elections, this is by no means a low level of voter registration. More than 90% of eligible voters were registered for the 1980 election by my estimates. At least 80% are likely to get registered in this Corporate lower income area with a long and bitter history of political violence.

If 80% register in this kind of area were supporting the wrong party could mean risking your life, registration in most of the other areas of the island where poor people are in the majority is not likely to be far below 1980 registration

registration levels. My data suggest that middle class registration and voting will fall significantly in the next election.

The rumours may have been reflecting a reality of political alienation in sections of the Corporate Area middle class. The big difference here is that the middle class understands that putting the PNP back in power is not going to solve any of the basic economic problems that lie at the root of our difficulties, and that in geo-political terms a return to a PNP government could re-activate external economic pressures that do not now exist. Some who understand this have lost faith in the JLP leadership and feel they have no real choice.

More Faith

The poorer people, for all their grumbling and griping have more faith in the parties and their leaders because they are less informed.

To be sure, it is perhaps unlikely that voter turnout in the next election will be as high as it was in 1980. The issues will not be as far reaching and soul stirring as those in 1980. But once the political bandwagons start rolling, political enthusiasm will be returned to quite normal levels and the majority of voters on the list (somewhere between 75% and 80%) will turn out to vote, regardless of what scepticism is now being expressed about the parties.

We intend to monitor these trends carefully in our next national poll due in October and to get a more comprehensive and reliable reading on the national pattern by that means.

Middle class political apathy is an old story in Jamaica's political tradition. But it is unfortunate that some of the people who have reaped a disproportionately large share of opportunities, income, wealth and living standards for good or bad reasons should be the first set of people who run away when things get rough and crawl into escapism when political choices get difficult.

If sections of our disgrunteled middle class are fed up with the JLP and fearful of the PNP, the thing for them to do is to get into these political parties and work towards giving the country the leadership they think it deserves. Crawling into apathy, or running away to Miami again can't really help the generations yet to come who will inherit what our present generation will have left behind. Nor will it fail to add to the further demoralisation of the present generation.

In the final analysis, the PNP, the JLP and even the WPJ are only as weak or as strong or as useful or as useless as we as Jamaicans collectively contribute to their weakening or their strengthening by the part we are prepared to play in national political life.

Fortunately, the poor people understand that.

ECONOMIC SITUATION ASSESSED FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES

Foreign Exchange Problem

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Sep 83 p 10

[Text]

JAMAICA is critically short of foreign exchange. It has been for the last decade and every indication is that the critical shortage of foreign exchange will continue for at least another half-decade.

As a country we continue to live vastly beyond our means. Successive governments have sought to persuade the public that all was well by borrowing ever increasing amounts abroad to finance consumption with little thought given to the day when such loans would have to be repaid.

Jamaica's imports have exceeded our exports year after year. In 1976 -- an election year -- the trade deficit was a terrifying \$225 million. After the election tighter public sector management was introduced and the trade deficit fell to \$95 million in 1977.

These figures are small however in comparison to what has happened since the Jamaica Labour Party came to power. The trade deficit in 1981 was \$888 million, \$11,151 million in 1982 and indications are that 1983 will end up with an even larger deficit.

We know that the slump in bauxite earnings contributed massively to those deficits but because of those deficits our national external debt doubled in two and a half years. The net external debt of \$1,492 million in December, 1980 is now in excess of \$2,814 million.

Over U.S.\$1-m a day

Almost 50% of that debt is due for

repayment in the next five years. In 1982 the cost of servicing the national debt was running at over U.S. \$1 million PER DAY.

Prime Minister Seaga bought a sense of confidence in the country by allowing, after his election, a large inflow of imported items. He kept the inflation rate at an artificially low level by pumping in cheap food (nearly J\$400 million annually for 1981 and 1982). But he has also now got to take some drastic and unpopular steps quickly to avoid a further deterioration in our foreign exchange situation.

In spite of much trumpeting it is clear that the new computer at the Trade Administrator's Office and the bureaucrats at the National Planning Agency have not done a good job at issuing licences in such a manner as to optimise the usage of our scarce foreign exchange. We understand that the computer system has been abandoned and a manual system re-established. No one, we believe, is entirely sure how many licences have been issued.

There is no doubt that in 1981 and 1982 far too many goods were imported into Jamaica. The country could not afford to repay the foreign exchange obligations incurred. Also, licences were given far too readily for expensive and luxury items of which the plethora of Mercedes Benz are only the most visible example.

Blame and responsibility lies squarely with the National Planning Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for their failure to ensure that our meagre foreign exchange resources were

not put to better use. It is odd that no heads have rolled for such incompetence or lack of judgement.

Culpable

But the Ministry of Finance is also culpable. The control of Customs comes under the Ministry of finance and there is no doubt that goods have consistently and continually entered Jamaica for which no proper licences exist. Apart from the introduction of a valuation section and the Container

Shipping Department, little appears to have been done to clean up the confusion and corruption which have occurred at the points of arrival and which we believe continues still.

Jamaica is not now in a position to borrow commercially on the world markets. The name of the game for the foreseeable future will be to make better use of what we have, and to do this the management of the public sector must be improved drastically in relation to the allocation of licences and the control of imports.

Cost of Bureaucracy

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

Part of the JLP's Manifesto was a commitment to divest the State of ownership of its many trading concerns. In spite of the appointment of a highly talented Divestment Committee, the plan to prune the Government has got nowhere.

Versair was sold, as was Southern Food Processors in St. Elizabeth, and some hotels leased. Then there has been a halt to the programme, though New Kingston Hotel is to be leased. It is reported that the sale of West Indies Paper and Pulp has been before the Cabinet for over a year. There is silence over the fate of Midland Enterprises. No progress is evident concerning whether Monymusk, Frimé and Long Pond Sugar factories will be returned to private management.

Not only has there been little evidence of the will to divest but the Government has actually moved the opposite way. The Esso Refinery was acquired. Montego Freeport was purchased. Jamaica Hill was leased from its private owners and is now run by the Government. Caymanas Estate, Laughing Water and other properties have been acquired by Government. The public sector looks likely to take over the management of the Hilton and already has reassumed responsibility for the Runaway Bay Hotel.

The most controversial of all the State-owned companies — The State Trading Corporation — has undergone a change of name and appears now poised for expansion, rather than contraction.

No longer will its operation be limited to importing basic food, drugs and certain select items such as lumber. The Jamaica Commodity Trading Corporation, as it is now known is about to become the monopoly exporter of all fresh foodstuffs simultaneously taking over the operations of JETCO — another government body.

Did it make sense?

Early in the term of the government it closed down the operations of the Jamaica Development Bank. It is

true that the JDB was in a mess. But with personnel resources scarce, did it make sense to replace that institution by two new ones? The Agricultural Credit Bank and the National development Bank, both of which took years to get started.

The duplication of Government Agencies dealing with the promotion of new investment and economic growth challenges even a fertile imagination.

The traditional Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, which reports to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, could have expected to be the chosen vehicle through which Government would catalyse economic growth. This was not to be.

The Prime Minister for, no doubt, good reason (but which reason is not publicly apparent) decided to establish a new State Corporation — The Jamaica National Investment Promotion Ltd. (JNIP) — which would answer to him and be financed from the Capital Development fund via yet another State owned investment company — the JNIC.

The Deputy Prime Minister who has foreign trade as part of his portfolio continued his own State Corporation — the Jamaica National Export Corporation (JNEC) with its international web of Trade Commissioners and its Subsidiary JETCO.

Over in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) went right ahead managing Government properties and waiting to spearhead the new agricultural thrust. That was probably what it thought it would do, till the Prime Minister took over personally AGRO 21 and set up yet another State organisation to act as its Secretariat. Whether this Secretariat will be financed external to the normal budget, as is the case with the JNIP, is not known.

The examples above are only examples. Other examples exist where instead of the government getting down to the job of reducing the number of Government entities it seems deeply committed to producing more.

Jamaica is already an overtaxed country. The public of Jamaica want a cost effective Government and duplication and confusion should not be allowed to continue.

The current Government was given a mandate in 1980 to reduce the role of the State in the economy. To date it has not delivered its promise.

Government Debt to BOJ

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

The Government owes the Bank of Jamaica over \$2,242 million.

The various elements comprising this substantial amount are disclosed in the Audited Accounts of the BOJ as at 31st December, 1982:-

	1982	\$ Million	1981
Treasury Bills	11		29
Local Registered Stock	1,411		1,372
Overdrawn Accounts	761		514
Due from Consolidated Fund	60		26
\$ Million	2,243		1,941
Exchange Rate losses deferred	72		111
\$ Million	2,315		2,052

The amount due from the consolidated fund, it is understood, represents the operating loss of the Central Bank.

The Audited Accounts of the Bank of Jamaica continue to show unrealised exchange losses as ASSETS of the Bank and are only charged to profit and loss over the repayment period of the relevant liability.

If the \$72 million of such ASSETS were treated (as they would be in a private sector company) as a charge to the Bank's profit and loss statement, the Bank's current net worth of \$9 million would become a negative net worth of \$63 million.

The Board of Directors of the Bank comprised Dr. Owen Jefferson, C. T. Brown, M. A. Berry, Hon. H. B. Barber, Mrs. Avis Henriques and Emil George at the end of 1982.

The august group of people will no doubt have considered and made plans to cover the following points:-

- Is the treatment of deferred exchange losses correct?
- Does the BOJ in fact, have a negative net worth? If so, should its paltry \$4 million of capitalisation not be increased?
- Should the BOJ continue to lose millions of dollars annually on its operations?
- Why is the \$10 million loan to the Jamaica Development Bank not adequately documented and possibly secured?
- Have adequate provisions been made for possible bad debts arising from the \$8 million invested in JDB equity and the further actual and contingent commitments of over \$15 million to the Bank's Subsidiaries?

The figures given above relate to the end of December, 1982. Since then indications are that the BOJ continues to run large operating losses, Government borrowings have probably increased and should a unification of exchange rate occur, additional exchange rate losses in excess of \$1,000 million might be created.

Is it not time that someone started putting the finance of the BOJ back in shape?

Under the law of the land, the Directors of the Bank may find that they individually have both moral and financial obligations in this respect.

Facts on Economy

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates

[Editorial Report] As it did in August 1983, THE DAILY GLEANER in Kingston in the period 23 to 28 [latest edition available] September 1983, on page 1, runs short items headed Economic Facts, numbered 1 through 4, covering various aspects of the economy, trade and fiscal situation. The items are as follows, in their entirety:

[23 Sep 83]

The annualised rate of inflation for the month of May was 15.9%. More than twice as high as the similar figure of April (7.5%). During May the Jamaica Consumer Price Index moved from 369.8 to 374.7.

The annualised inflation rate in the previous months was —

January 8.8%

February 12.7%

March 16.9%

April 7.5%

May 15.9%

12 months to May 9.3%

12 months of 1982 7.0%

The major contributor to the higher inflation in May was due to increased costs in the "Fuel and other household supplies" Sub-Index which moved upwards at an annualised rate of 30% in May.

[26 Sep 83]

The recurrent deficit of the Government — the amount by which its recurrent expenditure exceeds its recurrent revenue — more than doubled during the first two months (April and May) of this fiscal year, as compared to the same period in last year.

This deterioration in Government's finances arose because tax revenues were down, there were no transfers from the Capital Development Fund and recurrent expenditure was nevertheless increased by over 20%.

	J\$ Million		%
	2 months (April and May) 1983	1982	
Recurrure	339	282	20
RECURRENT DEFICIT	148	72	105
Capital Expenditure	167	78	114
OVERALL DEFICIT	231	126	83

NOTE: Brackets indicate negatives.

Capital expenditure more than doubled to \$167 million during the first two months of the fiscal year.

The overall deficit on Government operations — the amount by which the total expenditure of Government exceeds its revenue — amounted to \$231 million — an amount more than 80% greater than in 1982 and \$39 million greater than the total revenue of government in those two months.

[27 Sep 83]

Government continues to be heavily dependent on borrowings from the Bank of Jamaica to finance its operations.

During the first two months of the current fiscal year — April/May — Government borrowed \$232 million from the Central Bank as against a much smaller sum of \$78 million during the same period in 1982.

The extent of this dependence on Central Bank financing can better be appreciated by the realisation that

- Such borrowings approximate to \$4 million A DAY.

- Such borrowings exceed the total revenue received by Government during this period.

Government has been obliged to raid the Central Bank for so much because it has maintained its spending programmes in spite of a shrinking revenue base and an apparent collapse in its ability to borrow from abroad.

During the first two months of this fiscal year total net foreign borrowings to Government amounted to J\$2.6 million (1982 comparative J\$27.4 million) compared with a pro-rata budget expectation of J\$98 million.

[28 Sep 83]

The value of Jamaica's imports from CARICOM is down. In the first quarter of 1983 only J\$30 million was imported against J\$36 million in the same quarter last year.

On the other hand, our exports to CARICOM expanded to J\$32 million (1982 \$28 million).

As a result of the decline in the value of the country's total exports (which fell 5% in the 1983 first quarter) and the improvement in our sales to CARICOM - CARICOM exports now represent over 10% of all Jamaica's exports.

The value of exports in 1983 also grew with the Central American Common Market and the E.E.C.

Shearer on Raw Materials Export

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Sep 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] EFFORTS MUST be made to boost the use of Jamaican raw materials in exports to the United States to increase foreign exchange earnings in the context of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said Friday night.

Addressing a seminar on "Doing Business with the USA" at the Hotel Americana, Ocho Rios, Mr. Shearer said that maximising local raw materials was of particular significance to the agricultural sector and the export of agro-industry products, recognising that, if carefully exploited, the CBI represented a net benefit to Jamaica.

Mr. Shearer reminded his listeners that the Government of Jamaica had "put the utmost emphasis" on a sustained increase on foreign exchange earnings in the hard currency areas.

This emphasis was the fundamental basis for the recovery of the economy under the Structural Adjustment Programme, Mr. Shearer said, speaking against the background that Jamaica would receive its "beneficiary country" status under the CBI before year end.

"If we don't achieve that increase, we'll achieve nothing. The fact is that the USA is the single most important hard currency market for Jamaican exports."

The Deputy Prime Minister cited figures to show that the total value of non-traditional exports to the USA last year was about J\$69 million, representing nearly 22 per cent of total non-traditional export trade and 40 per cent of trade with non-CARICOM countries.

He compared this level of trade with total exports to nine member-states of the European Economic Community (EEC) and Canada coupled with other major markets last year which he said amounted to J\$42 million and just over J\$10 million respectively.

By reason of its size, proximity and per capita income, Mr. Shearer said that the USA was Jamaica's most dynamic market and must be the primary target of the country's export expansion effort.

Turning to the CBI and increased export potentials flowing from it Mr. Shearer said that the Act was to remove tariff barriers on imports of all products to the USA with a few notable exceptions, providing they met the originating criteria requiring a certain value added content.

However before Jamaica could benefit from the trade provisions, the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act required that each Caribbean Basin country must be specifical-

ly designated "beneficiary country" and a number of criteria were listed for determining such designation.

Steps had been taken to achieve such designation as there seemed to be no insuperable problem in Jamaica's conforming to these criteria, Mr. Shearer said, adding that it was anticipated that Jamaica would receive such designation before year end.

Listing the advantages under the CBI, he said that the product coverage for duty free imports was more extensive than that afforded the country under the U.S. Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), and that the rules of origin permitted import content from other CBI beneficiary

countries or even from the USA and its territories to be included in the calculation of local value added by beneficiary countries.

Products which were out of the scope of the GSP were now under the CBI and those which could not qualify for entrance under GSP because they failed to meet GSP value added requirements, could well qualify under the broader origin criteria of the CBI, Mr. Shearer said.

"This should result in a considerable expansion of trade among the CBI beneficiary countries, between such countries and the USA, in terms of obtaining raw materials which satisfy the rules of origin criteria."

He said that every effort must be made to maximise the use of Jamaican raw materials in exports to the USA and in exports as a whole, for that matter.

"It is by this means that we will maximise our foreign exchange earnings, and economic activity inside Jamaica as a result of the growth in our export trade," Mr. Shearer said.

Suggesting ways that entrepreneurs could use the CBI to increase exports to the USA, he said that they

should first of all determine whether their products qualified under the rules of origin and if so, they should find out what additional rights they enjoyed which they did not under GSP and what were the cost benefits derived from the remission of tariffs.

Mr. Shearer paid special tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford of the UWI who he said had worked hard to make the occasion possible.

Area Trade Mission

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Photo caption; photo not reproduced]

PIONEERING TRADE MISSION: Eleven members of the Jamaica Exporters' Association's EXPOJAM trade mission, just before they boarded a BWIA jetliner at the Norman Manley International Airport yesterday for Barbados, from where they will go on to Martinique, Guadeloupe, Curacao and Aruba on a pioneering selling trip. Theirs will be the first visit of a Jamaican trade mission to the French and Dutch islands. Leading the mission is Miss Pauline Stone, (2nd left on the tarmac), a vice president of the JEA and its missions chairman. Product lines represented by the mission include chocolate and chocolate confectionery, craft items, car filters, cosmetics, paint brushes, safety boots, and wicker and wooden furniture. In Barbados the mission was to be met by JEA president Geoffrey Messado who is there attending a meeting of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce with regional private sector leaders. The mission returns to Jamaica on September 30. Other members of the promotional-goodwill mission are Mrs. Marjorie Facey of Creative Wicker; Mr Ken Morgan of Morgan's Industries; Mrs. Cynthia Williams of CMP, Ltd.; Miss Dawn Vaz of Wherry Wharf; Mr Charles Keith of Caribrake; Mr Desmond Chai of Chai's Auto Supplies; Mr Claude Fletcher of Highgate Food Products; Mr Cyril Bartley of Electric Arc Jamaica, Ltd.; Mr Errol Hewitt of the Alkali Group of Companies; and Mr Noel Lewis of Lewis' Woodwork and Joinery.

CSO: 3298/059

MINISTER OF TOURISM DISPUTES 'INACCURATE' CANA FIGURES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] With Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Abrahams, has reacted with indignation at the Reuter CANA report by Irvine Reid published in the Sunday Gleaner of (Sept. 18), which states that whereas competing Caribbean destinations have shown increases in visitor arrivals for the first seven months of 1983, Jamaica showed a decline of 15.7 per cent, says a release from the Jamaica Tourist Board.

The release continues.

"This is laughable and inaccurate," the Minister said, "as the position is in reality, precisely the opposite. In 1982, Jamaica's tourism performance was the best ever in its history and for every single month, from January to July of 1983, for which final statistics are available, Jamaica has surpassed its 1982 performance."

The Minister gave the following visitors statistics:

VISITORS TO JAMAICA BY MONTHS JANUARY—JULY 1982/1983

<u>Months</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% Change</u>
January	78,335	92,411	+18.0
February	79,772	80,298	+ 0.7
March	77,793	84,368	+ 8.5
April	63,401	75,853	+19.6
May	49,506	58,355	+17.9
June	39,867	49,980	+25.4
July	46,734	67,189	+43.8
TOTAL	435,408	508,454	+16.8

Commented Mr. Abrahams, the above table shows, that rather than suffering a 15.7 per cent decline for the first seven months of this year (1983), Jamaica in fact had a 16.8 per cent increase over 1982. In real figures, this means that from January to July 1983, there were 508,454 visitors of Jamaica compared to 435,408 visitors in the corresponding period last year.

"In stating that Jamaica received 361,931 visitors from January to July this year instead of 508,454, the true figure, it is clear from the above that Mr. Reid is misinformed and owes Jamaica an unqualified apology," Mr. Abrahams concluded.

CSO: 3298/059

POLICE, GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATE WAGE, BENEFIT SETTLEMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFIT negotiations between the Government and the executive of the Police Federation have reached a settlement.

The Federation has agreed to accept the Government's final offer including a two-year wage sum valued at about \$22.31 million, or an increase of about 42 percent; a 50 percent increase in housing allowance; and the effective starting date of the contract to be July 1 rather than April 1, the Gleaner has learned.

The negotiations between the Federation and the Ministry of Labour and the Public Service faced the threat of "positive action" even before formal talks began.

On March 18 the Federation, which represents over 6,000 members of the rank-and-file of the Force, had voted to take "positive action" to force the Government to begin the negotiation after noting the Government's failure to respond to their 11-point claim, and to reply to communication aimed at getting wage talks moving.

The planned action was however shelved when an April 6 date was set by the Government which saw the start of the negotiation.

The negotiation stalled around late April with the Federation executive agreeing tentatively to accept the Government's wage offer — representing around a 42 percent increase — provided that the Government met their request on three outstanding areas: (a) a 100 percent increase in special allow-

ance; (b) redressing anomalies in the special allowance; and (c) the starting date of the contract should begin from April 1 rather than July 1.

On August 11 an emergency meeting of the full membership of the Federation voted to take "positive action" to influence the Government into meeting the demands.

The positive action which resulted in some members of the rank-and-file reporting sick ended on Tuesday afternoon, August 16, after the Federation's executive had met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer who at the time was acting for the Minister of National Security the Hon. Winston Spaulding, who was ill. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, was also at the meeting.

The return to normal duty was ratified by another emergency meeting of the Federation membership on August 17. Negotiations were resumed with a successful conclusion being reached shortly after.

GOVERNMENT ACTS TO HALT ILLEGAL FLIGHTS AT NATION'S AIRPORTS

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT has taken action to reduce the incidence of unauthorised aircraft landing at the two international airports, and which are obstructing the take-off and landing of legitimate flights.

In response to the *Gleaner*, the Hon. Parnell Charles, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, said yesterday that in the last four weeks, two such aircraft had landed during the night at the Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay, without having contacted the control tower. They had consequently posed a danger, and obstructed the operations of legitimate aircraft both on scheduled and private flights.

He said that his ministry had therefore ordered a repeat of the notice sent out last year to international airmen advising them about small aircraft, and that they should show extra caution when flying into and out of Jamaica.

In addition, air control radio link is to be placed at all domestic airports such as Tinson Pen in Kingston, Boscobel in St. Mary, and Ken Jones in Portland, linking them with the Air Traffic Control Tower at the

Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, to protect the safety of legal users of Jamaica's airspace, he said.

Mr. Charles indicated also that radar control of Jamaica's air space was being considered.

Asked about any other early action to be taken, Mr. Charles said the Airports' Authority had been instructed to have all runways inspected before the landing and take-off at the two international airports of all flights. Firemen at the airports would be expected to assist in the inspection.

The Government, said Mr. Charles, was most concerned, and would be taking even stronger measures to protect the safety of those who legitimately used Jamaica's airspace and airports.

The *Gleaner* understands that more than 50 small aircraft had either crashed or been seized after entering Jamaica's airspace without permission in the last three years. All were suspected to be involved in illegal drug traffic. In a series the *Gleaner* has exposed the existence of several illegal airstrips which have been used, and has called for legislation which was promised from the days of the former administration to deal with the problem of illegal airstrips.

The pressure from international authorities on Jamaica to take strong measures to protect legitimate users of its airports, and to reduce the use of Jamaica as a centre of illegal drug trafficking, including hard drugs, has become intense. The Government's warning last week about the danger to the licence of Air Jamaica if the national airline continued to be used by drug traffickers to move drugs out of Jamaica was the first step.

The new measures announced by Mr. Charles are another step, and it is expected that other moves will be made soon.

SEAGA CLARIFIES SCOPE OF PROPOSED MEDIA COMMISSION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday said the jurisdiction of the proposed Media Commission would cover the publicly owned media, and not the privately owned.

The statement by Mr. Seaga, was issued from Washington D.C., where the Prime Minister is attending ME World Bank meetings. It said:

I should like to clear up an apparent misunderstanding regarding the scope of responsibility of the proposed Media Commission in the light of the *Gleaner* editorial of Monday, September 26.

A Media Committee had been established to make proposals regarding the structure and responsibilities of the Media Commission. Among the recommendations the Committee submitted to me, was one which suggested that the Media Commission's jurisdiction should also apply to the private media. This recommendation was struck out by me as it was made clear by me from the outset that the Commission should be respon-

sible for monitoring the practices of the publicly owned media in which government has had some influence through equity holding. This is in keeping with the original concept I outlined when in Opposition. In making the recommendation to enlarge the Commission's authority the Media Committee had exceeded its terms of reference."

The *Gleaner's* editorial titled "Tread warily" was based on statements by the Hon Mike Henry, Minister of State for Information, suggesting that the Media Commission would have jurisdiction over the independently owned media.

CSO: 3298/060

PROSPECTS OF MAIN AGRICULTURAL EXPORT CROPS ANALYZED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] One of the main weapons our nation must wield with a great fighting spirit is agricultural production, decisive for the economy and life of the country.

The guidelines set forth for the 1983 economic program show that priority must go to agricultural activities, which, in addition to providing basic consumer goods, are the main source of the foreign exchange needed by our economy.

The efforts of the revolution to develop production of cotton, coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, sesame and other export products, have in some cases enjoyed massive support of the people in harvesting, but in addition to this support, they require a better mastery of the situation of the main export crops, their expansion and planned production, as essential aspects of the national economy with which the people must be familiar.

In keeping with this aim, this "Socioeconomic Monday" hopes to make a modest contribution, offering a general evaluation of the main export crops for the 1983-1984 season.

Limitations of space have caused us to concentrate on the area planted, with particular emphasis on cotton, a subject widely discussed because of the reduction in area used since 1979.

Main Agricultural Crops for Export

Cotton

Cotton is the second-ranking crop, after coffee, among products exported, based on the high amount of foreign exchange generated and the number of jobs.

The record amount of land planted in cotton occurred in 1977-1978, with 310,800 blocks, representing 62 percent of the total area planted in export crops and 31 percent of the total area planted by the agricultural sector.

Nicaragua: Evolution of Area Planted in Cotton by Ownership Sector (in thousands of blocks)

<u>Sector</u>	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>1981-1982</u>	<u>1982-1983</u>	<u>1983-1984</u>
Small-scale production and cooperatives	12.5	15.2	19.1	41.4
Large-scale production	99.4	92.1	77.2	77.6
Area belonging to people	22.8	25.4	32.9	47.2
Total	134.7	132.7	129.2	166.2

Structure in Percentage

Small-scale production and cooperatives	9	12	15	25
Large-scale production	74	69	60	47
Area belonging to people	17	19	25	28
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform (MIDINRA) and Statistical Bulletin of the National Development Bank (BND)

1983-1984: Regions 3 and 4 up to 13 August 1983

Region 1 up to 1 September 1983

Nicaragua: Area Planted in Cotton by Region and Ownership Sector, 1983-1984 (in thousands of blocks)

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Region 2</u>	<u>Region 3</u>	<u>Region 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
Small-scale production and cooperatives	39.2	0.5	1.7	41.4
Large-scale production	66.3	2.5	8.8	77.6
Area belonging to people	40.7	2.7	3.8	47.2
Total	146.2	5.7	14.3	166.2

Structure in Percentage

Small-scale production and cooperatives	95	1	4	100
Large-scale production	86	3	11	100
Area belonging to people	86	6		100
Total	88	3	9	100

Source: MIDINRA, Regions 3 and 4 up to 13 August 1983

Region 2 up to 1 September 1983

Beginning with the triumph of the revolution, the area planted in cotton dropped significantly, averaging 132,200 blocks the first three years. During this 1983-1984 season (according to MIDINRA sources), the area planted in cotton increased by 29 percent over last year. By August 1983, 166,200 blocks of cotton had been planted in the country, exceeding the proposed goal of 150,000 by 11 percent.

Starting with the triumph of the revolution, three ownership sectors have been involved in cotton production: small individual producers and cooperativized producers (CAS, CCS); large producers; and the area belonging to the people.

These sectors have a specific portion of the area planted in cotton, which for this season can be described as follows: large-scale farming, 77,600 blocks (47 percent); the APP [area belonging to the people], 47,200 blocks (28 percent); and small individual and cooperativized producers, 41,400 blocks (25 percent). The latter two groups combined have over half (53 percent) of the total cotton area.

Cotton-growing activity is localized in the Pacific area, with the greatest concentration in Region 2 (Leon-Chinandega), with 146,200 blocks (88 percent). It is followed by the departments of Masaya and Granada of Region 4, with 14,300 blocks (9 percent), while Region 3 has 5,600 blocks (3 percent).

Throughout the revolutionary period, the different sectors involved in cotton growing demonstrated different trends. The small individual and cooperativized producers, as well as the area belonging to the people, experienced growth, while large-scale production declined over the same period, including the 1983-1984 season.

During the 1980-1981 cycle, small individual and cooperativized producers' production amounted to 9 percent (12,500 blocks) of the total area planted in cotton during that season, which figure rose to 25 percent for the 1983-1984 season (41,700 blocks). In other words, small producers and cooperatives have quadrupled their cotton area. The area in the hands of the people began its activity during the 1980-1981 season with 17 percent (22,800 blocks) of the total area planted in cotton. That figure doubled for this 1983-1984 season (47,200 blocks), with 28 percent of the total area planted. For its part, large-scale cotton growing reduced its area (99,400 blocks in 1980-1981 and 77,600 blocks in 1983-1984), a considerable decline compared with the other sectors (from 74 percent in 1980-1981 to 47 percent in 1983-1984).

The decisive participation of small individual production and cooperatives during this 1983-1984 season shows that given the policy of incentives, small producers have responded positively, while big producers have not increased their planting; rather, their proportion has declined.

Summing up the participation of the different social sectors involved in cotton growing during the postrevolutionary period, we conclude that during this 1983-1984 season, large-scale production has seen its participation decline, compared with small producers and cooperatives. Together with

the area belonging to the people, the latter have over half of the area planted in cotton for 1983-1984, amounting to 53 percent.

Coffee

The area to be planted in coffee for the 1983-1984 season is 128,500 blocks, with 108,900 in the private sector and 19,600 in the area belonging to the people.

The final figure for the 1982-1983 season was 128,100 blocks.

Sugar Cane

The 1982-1983 season came to a close with 53,200 blocks of sugar cane harvested, of which 16,300 were harvested by the people's area (31 percent). The San Antonio mill harvested 13,200 blocks (25 percent) and the remaining 23,700 blocks (44 percent) were harvested by settlers, including both those connected with the people's ownership sector as well as the private sector.

For this 1983-1984 season, 52,300 blocks are programmed, according to June 1983 estimates. This reflects a drop of 2 percent compared with the previous season, the result of a 1-percent growth in the area belonging to the people and its settlers and a 4-percent reduction for the private sector.

Achievement of production goals depends on a normal winter.

Sesame

For the 1983-1984 season, 29,200 blocks are to be planted in sesame, which is the most rapidly expanding product in the agroexport sector. The area planted has doubled compared with the previous season, when the total was 14,000 blocks.

This increase in the area planted in sesame is explained by the rise in international prices leading to favorable marketing. Sesame is also the biggest net generator of foreign exchange.

Sesame is mainly found in Region 2. For this season, 80 percent of the area is in the hands of small individual producers and cooperatives, while 18 percent goes to large-scale production and the remaining 2 percent in the hands of the people.

Havana Tobacco

Havana tobacco is found exclusively in Region 1 under the control of the people's ownership sector. For the 1983-1984 season, 1,400 blocks have been planned, an increase of 27 percent compared with the last season, when the total was 1,100 blocks.

The planned increase in Havana tobacco is due to prospects of expanding the market to European countries.

Comparison of Areas Planted in Export Products (in thousands of blocks)

<u>Crop</u>	<u>1982-1983</u>	<u>1983-1984*</u>
Cotton	129.2	166.2
Coffee	128.1	128.5
Sugar cane	53.2	52.3
Sesame	14.0	29.2
Havana tobacco	1.1	1.4
Bananas	3.8	3.8
	<hr/> 329.4	<hr/> 381.4

Source: MIDINRA

* Refers to planting goals with the exception of cotton, which reflects the area actually planted.

Conclusions

1 -- After describing goals set for the planting of export crops for the 1983-1984 season, one comes to the conclusion that the prospects are very positive. The winter will determine whether it will be possible to achieve the goals set or come as close as possible to doing so.

2 -- The area to be planted in export crops (381,400 blocks) for the 1983-1984 season shows an increase of 16 percent compared with final figures for the 1982-1983 season, which were 329,400 blocks.

3 -- Outstanding among the export crops is cotton, which exceeding its planting goal by 11 percent. The increase demonstrated by small individual producers and cooperatives, along with the area owned by the people, was decisive.

Incentives for 1983-1984

Beginning in 1981-1982, the Revolutionary Government implemented economic policy incentives in order to spur agricultural production for export.

The policy of incentives contains the following aspects: 1) setting guaranteed prices to the producer to cover production costs, leaving an acceptable profit; b) setting such prices in keeping with the international price: Part of the guaranteed price will be paid at an official exchange rate (10 cordobas to the dollar) and the rest at a rate of 28 cordobas to the dollar (upon presentation of a foreign exchange right certificate); 3) maintaining the price of consumable expenditures at the rate of 10 cordobas to the dollar; 4) ensuring that the income of producers from sales to export enterprises will first of all go to reduce their debts to the National Financial System; and 5) assuring the producer of the possibility of using the foreign exchange right certificate for imports, once he has cancelled his debt to the National Financial System.

This policy of incentives has been reflected in the fact that both the guaranteed prices and the percentages of the price paid with the exchange right certificate have shown increases.

Foreign exchange right certificates from sugar have increased from 32 to 61.28 percent of the price; from sugar, from 31.25 to 37.03 percent; and from tobacco, from 30 to 40 percent, between the 1981-1982 and 1983-1984 seasons.

Incentives for Exports 1983-1984

Product	Percent at Official Exchange Rate	Percent in Ex.Right Cert.	Guaranteed Price 1983-1984
Cotton (gold)	62.97	37.03	1,100.00
Refined sugar	38.72	61.28	210.32
Raw sugar	41.27	58.73	205.72
Coffee (gold)	85.93	14.07	1,316.00 ¹
Sesame	71.85	28.15	813.60 ²
Havana tobacco	60.00	40.00 ³	

Source: Central Bank of Nicaragua, Export Incentives Program, 1983-1984,
8 April 1983

¹ Guaranteed price to producer, 1,200.00 cordobas, and 116.00 cordobas are for operational costs of ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise]

² Guaranteed price to producer, 480.00 cordobas, and 33.16 cordobas correspond to transport and marketing costs.

³ Of the 40 percent in foreign exchange right certificates, 27 percent will be for TANIC [Nicaraguan Tobacco Company] and 13 percent for private producers.

11,464

CSO: 3248/29

INDUSTRIALIST CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC MEASURES

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] Mr Ismael Reyes Icabalceta, president of the Nicaraguan Industrial Chamber, gave an overall analysis of the political and economic situation of the Central American isthmus and especially of Nicaragua. The lecturer described the Common Market [MERCOSUR] as "a marvelous dream that could not become true because of the individualist policies of each country." The conference covered "economic perspectives and business opportunities in Central America."

He also characterized Costa Rica and Nicaragua as the countries most affected by foreign debt; the Costa Rican colon was devalued by 100 percent and the cordoba by more than 300 percent in the black or parallel market. "Nicaragua should have exports of some \$1 billion annually and in 1982 it reached only \$405.8 million, barely 40 percent of normal."

"Nicaragua's foreign debt, which was \$1.6 billion in 1979, reached \$4.0 billion in 1982. The gross domestic product and per capita consumption fell to the level of 20 years ago. It is also the country having the greatest scarcity of basic products, spare parts, medicine, etc."

"Basically, the political factor is the reason for the economic and social crisis of the area and not the economic factor as some believe. Only very special programs such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative could help to resolve the area's current situation. It is a marvelous opportunity to increase our exports, reduce unemployment and improve the quality of life of the worker, helping the business sector and directly benefitting the people," he indicated.

He then characterized the situation of Central American businessmen, saying they are people who "are following a very difficult road that has reached a dangerous point. Two actions are fundamental: the recovery of the regional market and the restructuring of MERCOSUR. This effort is to be economic and political and involves the necessity of making large investments to restore the enterprises and to regain the level of production."

"I believe that all of the governments of the region, perhaps with the single exception of Nicaragua, meet the conditions to qualify for and participate in the Caribbean Basin Plan. Nevertheless, it would be very important for

the effective and permanent realization of this program if Nicaragua could also meet them, because the sine qua non of complete success is a homogenous environment."

He then asked how a body can be healthy when one of its organs is infected or sick. "Geographically, historically and culturally we are the same body and what affects one country affects the others. But how could that plan be applied in a country whose system of state economy is contrary to the system of free enterprise of the other countries?" he asked.

"In Nicaragua, after 4 years of Sandinist rule, it has still not been defined what they mean by mixed economy, a very ambiguous term, because in the terms of Marxist-Leninist governments the mixed economy that they are talking about is nothing more than the first stage in an absolute state economy.

"What is the value of the mixed economy if they continue the illegal confiscation of enterprises and if they are taking over all of the means of production by force? This lack of definition has caused distrust and an enormous flight of human capital, impossible to replace.

"When one talks with the Marxists, primary importance is on semantics; the words are very equivocal. One must define the meaning that is given to them. When they speak of a mixed economy, of freedom, of the nation, the words have a different meaning because they speak a different language. When they speak of democracy, it is a democracy sui generis, guided, imposed. When they speak of peace, it is a peace imposed by force of arms, and for us, neither democracy nor peace can be imposed because they would be neither peace nor democracy. Could anyone invest in Nicaragua with this climate of uncertainty, distrust and fear?" he asked.

Human Rights Violations

"There is no legal system in Nicaragua to restore legality and put an end to arbitrariness, to guarantee property and human rights. Thus they create distrust and fear among the people.

"What is the use of proclaiming respect for human rights if laws are promulgated that restrict those same rights? There has not been a government such as that of the Sandinists that constantly and permanently violates and shows disrespect for human rights, in all places and in such a serious manner," he said.

He then pointed out the accusations of the Permanent Commission of Human Rights of Nicaragua, of the independent political parties, of private enterprise, of the autonomous unions and of the church. He put special emphasis on the accusation of the Misurasata Council of Elders, comprised of the Misquito, Sumo and Rama Indians. He said that more than 4,000 of their houses were burned; they burned their crops, cut down trees, etc., to force them to leave their lands and to move them to rural areas in Wasminona, Susa, Zumobila and Trujilaya.

In this respect, he cited the words of Sandinist commander Jaime Wheelock: "They will either accept Sandinism in that form or they will see what happens." And those of Tomas Borge: "We are prepared to exterminate the last Misquito, if necessary, so that we can implant Sandinism along the Atlantic coast." Icabalceta: "The ruins of 49 indigenous communities are mute but eloquent testimony that the commanders kept their word," he affirmed.

He then denounced the creation of popular tribunals to justify the intervention and illegal confiscations and to persecute the regime's opposition. "In Nicaragua, there is control of radio, television, newspapers, the theater and all the manifestations of culture so that they can be used as political weapons. As much as 70 percent of the information in LA PRENSA is censored."

"There is no freedom of religion in Nicaragua, the concept of God is ridiculed, they attack religion and its ministers, beating them, ejecting them from their ecclesiastical jurisdiction, committing other forms of sacrilege...trying to do away with the church and its spiritual influence, making it acceptable with an apostate church, misnamed popular church but totally identified with the revolution.

"Private enterprise in Nicaragua has no hope of survival and the Sandinist commanders proclaim that at the top of their lungs in all ways and occasions. Daniel Ortega promised: "To destroy completely the capitalist infrastructure as one of the objectives of the Sandinist process, to create later a new socialist structure."

"The independent unions (Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers, Confederation for Trade Union Unity) are being threatened and harassed, for the tendency is toward a single union. The emergency law curtailed the right to strike, so that we are facing enormous restrictions to union freedoms," he indicated.

He then criticized Central American and South American business leaders. "They do not see the Nicaraguan problem as their own problem but as something far away that does not concern them. They have not realized that what is happening in Nicaragua is not an isolated problem and must be appreciated in its totality. It is a cancer that came to Nicaragua from Cuba and that is extending its tentacles toward the north and toward the south, threatening the continent.

"We cannot think about achieving social, political and economic stability in the area if we do not first resolve the problem of Nicaragua. Time is short and the situation is very serious; do not close your eyes to reality. You do not want to see, you do not want to realize that our problem is your problem, that what is happening to us Nicaraguans today will happen to you tomorrow."

He finished by citing the words of Dr Aristides Calvani, the former Venezuelan chancellor: "I am not confronting Marxism-Leninism because I am a blind anticommunist, but because I am fighting for freedom and for the advancement of mankind. And because I am fighting for that advancement, I have to face those who today represent the gravest danger to that advancement of mankind."

9746

CSO: 3248/27

BRIEFS

TAX REVENUE FIGURES--Silvio Vargas, director of the revenue directorate at the Finance Ministry, told BARRICADA yesterday that the 675 million cordobas that the treasury expected to receive in income tax revenues was surpassed by more than 200 million, a fact that demonstrates the people's trust in the revolutionary government. The goal was surpassed on 28 September, 2 days before the deadline for tax payers who earn more than 48,000 cordobas per year. [Excerpt] [PA110313 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Oct 83]

ASSISTANCE FROM UN PROGRAM--The United Nations Development Program [UNDP] will grant Nicaragua \$3.6 million for economic and social development projects in the next 2 years. The UNDP has granted over \$600 million in technical assistance and \$119,040,000 in financial assistance to Nicaragua since the victory of the revolution. [Summary] [PA110313 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Oct 83]

CSO: 3248/57

VIEWS OF NEVIS POLITICAL LEADERS ON INDEPENDENCE

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Sep 83 St Kitts-Nevis Independence
Special p 22

[Text]

MISS MYRNA WALWYN, leader of the Nevis Independence Party (NIP) said: Independence is a must. Ultimately, they (St. Kitts) want us to secede when it is in their best interest to do so. Right now, our infrastructure is bad, and it needs to be developed.

MR THEODORE "TED" HOBSON, leader of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) said: "We feel that we cannot do anything about it; it is here already. We feel that the People of Nevis have never been consulted.

"Frankly, what I would like to see, is a situation where Nevis is allowed to stay with Britain for five more years, and during that period, try to build up the infrastructure of Nevis before moving on to independence. There was no kind of activity in Nevis concerning independence."

MR. SIMEON DANIEL, leader of the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) said: "The Constitution that we have negotiated in London makes provision for the home rule of Nevis. In addition, it also provides for Nevis to separate from St. Kitts at any time the people of Nevis and their representatives so desire.

"The St. Kitts Labour Party did not have any constitutional proposals that we knew of which were before the British Government in 1979 when they were negotiating Independence for the two islands.

"We subsequently learned that they would move into independence as a unitary state with the same type of Constitution which we now have without making any special provisions for the proper administration of Nevis."

NEW BRAZILIAN ENVOY DISCUSSES AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC TIES

Desire for Good Relations

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 7 Sep 83 p 5

[Interview with Brazilian Ambassador L.F. Lampreia; date and place not given]

[Text] "I was very honored," said the Brazilian ambassador, "when the minister of foreign affairs of Brazil recently asked me to become the Brazilian ambassador here in Suriname. I can tell you that it is a challenge to fill this position, and to build up a new kind of relationship with probably the only country in South America with which we have not had intensive relations."

"For historical reasons we have been separated from each other for many years. It is my task to develop this relationship on the basis of mutual respect and mutual understanding, while taking into account the basic principles of self-determination and non-interference in the affairs of other countries. These are the basic guidelines of our foreign policy."

Task

Question: What are the activities of the Brazilian embassy and what can we expect in the near future?

Lampreia: When Minister General Venturini came here in April and when the prime minister of Suriname went to Brazil, our governments agreed at the highest levels on a very broad and very comprehensive program of bilateral cooperation.

It is my task to make sure that this cooperation is implemented. I have not been here 6 weeks yet, and already three Brazilian missions have come to Suriname.

One of these was the agricultural mission, including 11 agricultural experts, and they conducted talks on a range of cooperation programs, from honey production to the extraction of palm oil.

On the other hand, we will shortly sign another document in the area of hydro-energy. Brazil will supply Suriname with expertise to develop a national energy model, which will provide you with insight on the available energy

sources. Furthermore, we will provide technical assistance to Suriname for the exploitation of the rivers, the forests and the sun for the generation of energy.

This is how one builds up a relationship stone by stone, and this is how Brazil can put its own experience at the service of the people of Suriname, in order for them to be able to profit from what we have learned, from our mistakes, so that they can adjust it to the conditions in Suriname.

In addition, we are making preparations to establish a number of agreements. Financial protocols, protocols which regulate the exchange of technicians, protocols which regulate the training of people as well as visits by Brazilian technicians to Suriname.

We have been asked by the Surinamese government to make a number of scholarships available for study at Brazilian universities. There will be between 15 and 20 of them. In addition, every Surinamese is of course free to go to Brazil to study there without a scholarship. He or she has access to the Brazilian universities. We also believe that it will be a good thing to create the conditions here in Suriname for people to get to know Brazil better and, of course, to lift the language barrier.

We will shortly establish a center for Brazilian studies in Paramaribo, where we will teach Portuguese and where we will give those who want it the opportunity to meet Brazilians, to read Brazilian books and newspapers, and to view Brazilian video-cassettes. We also already have an agreement with the television and radio stations to broadcast Brazilian programs, Brazilian shows and Brazilian soccer.

Last year, at the first Portuguese course taught here in Paramaribo, we had approximately 100 participants, and we have indications that for the next course, which will start in October, more than 300 individuals will attend.

Generally speaking, our task involves making our neighborly relations more concrete and more palpable than in the past, and to provide the people of Suriname and Brazil with the opportunities, the instruments and the channels to get to know each other, to communicate and to travel to each other's country.

Good Relations

Question: The relationship between Suriname and Brazil is a relationship between a large country and a small country. One might think that it is also a one-sided relationship. What, in your opinion, does Suriname have to offer to Brazil?

Lampraia: Diplomatic relations are not based solely on the balance of what you give and what you receive. I think that there is more involved than what kinds of advantages one country obtains with regard to another country. What is very important is the broad political context in which relationships develop. In this context, every independent country has its own role to play within its own region. I believe that Suriname has a very important role to play in this continent of ours.

It is better for Brazil to have good relations with Suriname than not to have any. It is the same as with human relations. You don't start a friendship solely to get material gains from it. Relations between Brazil and Suriname, and between Brazil and the Caribbean countries are very important.

Until recently, we had only superficial relations with the Caribbean area. We had virtually no trade and virtually no diplomatic presence. Now we are opening more and more embassies, and we are cooperating with these countries, and of course we are members, together with these countries, of the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

International Support

Question: Does Brazil support Suriname in these international organizations?

Lamprea: Obviously, it is up to Suriname to speak for itself in the international organizations. But as neighbors we have cooperated with Suriname in the international organizations to emphasize our common interests. It goes without saying that we work very closely with the Surinamese delegations at the OAS and the United Nations and other bodies. I think that the best we can do is to cooperate within these organizations and to vote together for the adoption of resolutions which are in our mutual interest.

Amazon Pact

Question: Could you tell us what the Amazon Pact is and what it does?

Lamprea: The Amazon Pact, which was concluded in Brazilia in 1978, is very symbolic and basic for both our countries. It represents one of the first and perhaps the most important political attempts to bring together the South American countries, those countries which share in the legacy of the Amazon primeval forest: Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Venezuela.

Within the Amazon Pact we have the opportunity to see our natural resources as part of something bigger, so that we can profit more from them than if we were to do it on our own. The fact that we exchange information is very important, as well as the fact that in the future we will perhaps have common projects to develop the Amazon basin.

But in addition, the Amazon Pact is proof of one thing: in the past, all of us had relations with countries outside our region: Suriname with the Netherlands and Brazil with England, Portugal and the United States. The arrows all pointed outwards; we were together but separated. The Amazon Pact is an attempt to turn those arrows inwards, to work together to our own benefit and under our own conditions.

We sit together to discuss how best to conserve this legacy, and how best to use it, and what kinds of illnesses there are and what kinds of flora and fauna.

I am personally convinced that the Amazon Pact is an example of dynamic and worthwhile cooperation between the neighbors of this region.

Extend Friendship

Question: Do you want to add anything in conclusion?

Lampreia: For a professional diplomat, who is expected to build bridges between two countries, it is a challenge in the name of his government to build bridges over a river where only few or no bridges existed. I am very pleased and thankful to have been given this opportunity. I will do my best to fulfill this mission. The Brazilian embassy will always be in the forefront for the extension of friendship between Suriname and Brazil.

I want every Surinamese to know that the Brazilian embassy is always ready to help them in every way we can be of service to Suriname, in the areas of culture, art or tourism, and in the commercial, economic or financial fields. We do not have a big embassy, we do not have a large staff, but all of us are very enthusiastic and we will really do our best.

Biographic Details

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[Text] The Brazilian ambassador in our country is a very experienced speaker. When we interviewed him at his official residence, it did not surprise us at all when he told us that in the past he had been spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brazil. In that capacity, he held regular meetings with the press about the latest issues in foreign policy. The skill of an experienced diplomat is apparent in the ease and care with which he chooses his words.

Mr L.F. Lampreia is married, has five daughters, enjoys sports a great deal and swims every day. He says that he has felt very much at home in Suriname since he returned to Suriname less than 2 months ago to fill the position of ambassador of Brazil to Suriname.

"We have been welcomed here with open arms by everyone, by the people on the street, by the people in their homes. In the business world, in government, everywhere we have met people who are genuinely sympathetic toward us and who have received us with a great deal of friendliness."

Mr Lampreia ascribes this to the fact that the Surinamese and Brazilian approach to mutual association shows many similarities: "We all like soccer and music."

In addition to being a diplomat, Ambassador Lampreia is also an economist, and he also studied sociology.

His previous position was that of deputy ambassador of Brazil to the United States. As such he was in charge of the financial, trade and economic section of the Brazilian embassy in Washington. He told us that for the last 4 years

before coming to Suriname, his primary task had been to negotiate with the United States government in order to guarantee the export of Brazilian industrial products to the United States.

Furthermore, Mr Lampreia was also in charge of contacts with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank.

For a while he was a member of the board of directors of the IDB, where he represented Brazil, Ecuador and Suriname.

He made his first acquaintance with Suriname in February of this year. In April, he visited our country together with Minister General Venturini.

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3 Nov. 1983
